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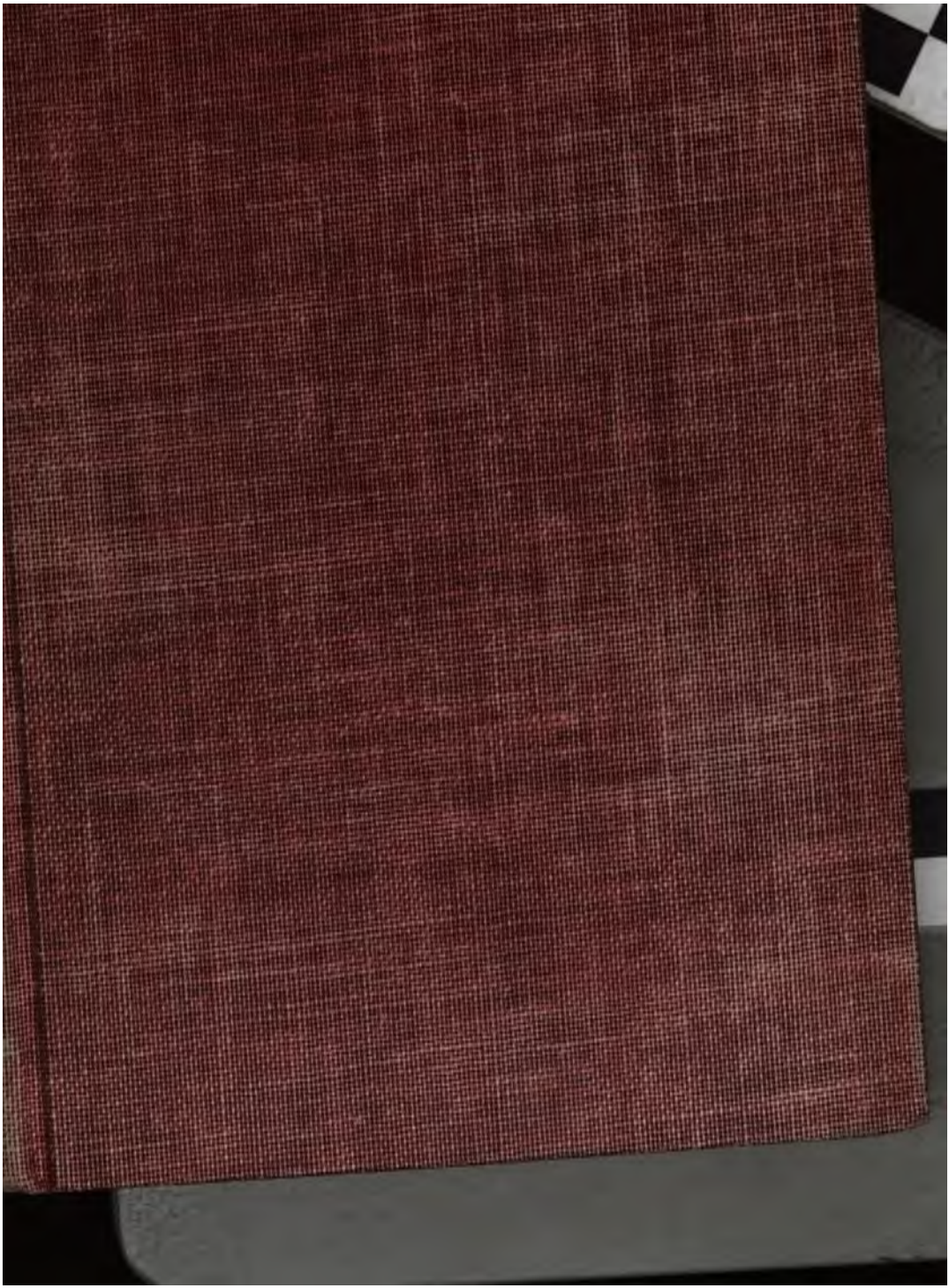

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The Army in Semerset County.

Fort Washington taken Nov.10.1776
Hackensack & Passaic River
crossed after Nov. 16.1776
Washington with 3000 men flies through
Newark,N.Bruns.Princeton & Trenton.
Crossed Delaware Dec.8.1776
Gen.Lee with what was left of 3000
was at Vealtown Dec.13.1776
Lee captured at White's Tavern(2miles)
Dec.13.& taken to Bound Brook & N.Brs.
Washington retreated via pub.road by
6 Mile Run,Kingston & Princeton to T.
Lee & Sullivan led a division from
Totowa(Paterson),by Passaic Valley to
Morristown,Bernardsville,Lamington
Clinton to Phillipsburgh. and the
2 wings united on West of Delaware
Dec.20.1776.
Year closed with all N.J in poss. of
British except Morris,Sussex & Hunt-n.
Dec.25.1776 Washington re-crossed the
Delaware at Trenton.
Dec.26.W. again crossed delaware with
his prisoners.
Dec.30.1776 Again Re-crossed the Del.
& Jan.2.1777 a fough Cornwallis.
Jan.3.1776 fought battle of Princeton.
Pursued enemy to Kingston.
Led his troops on east side of the
Millstone to Rocky Hill.
He then crossed the Raritan at Van-
Veghten's Bridge and rendezvoused
next day Pluckamin ,the 4th. Jan.
The army remained at Pluckamin only
a few days and then went into Winter
quarters at(Morristownon Kemble Mt.)

the real Place of encampment was at a point bet. Bettle Hill & Morris T. Howe was at New Brunswick, and May 28 1777 Washington made his stand on the Heights North of Middlebrook with 5738 effective men.

The encampmet at Middlebrook at this time was on Right of road leading thro. the mountain gorge in which Chimney Rock is situated, just where it rises up from the bed of the little stream and attains the level of Washington Valley. A strong earth work was thrown up almost in the centre of the valley, as a protection from any move- from Pluckamin and the whole of the defile of the narrow valley was strongly guarded, Just at edge of the wood, Ea East of Chimnet Rock, were huts for the offiecrs.

At Bound Brook a redoubt was built commanding the bridge over the little stream just N. of the present R.R. station.

Benedict Arnold was to form an Army of Militia East of the Delaware.

Gen. Sullivan who remained naar Princeton with part of the Reg. Army, was to be always ready to join Washington, and all the Militia of N.J. was called out.

Howe wished to reach Phila.

On June 14. 1777 Howe advanced in 2 columns towards Princeton.

The 1st. under Cornwallis reached Millstone by daybreak.

The 2d. under DeHester arrived at same time at Middlebush by a more southerly route.

CENTENNIAL HISTORY

OF

SOMERSET COUNTY,

BY

ABRAHAM MESSLER, D. D.

SOMERVILLE,
C. M. JAMESON, PUBLISHER.
1878.

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INTRODUCTION.

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The shores of New Jersey were first trod by the feet of civilized men in September, 1609. The visitors were from the ship of Hendrick Hudson, who on the Third day of that month had brought his vessel within the waters of the Raritan Bay, and allowed his men to hold intercourse with the Indians on the Monmouth shore. On the sixth, a boat's crew passed the Narrows, and rounding the east shore of Staten Island, entered the Kills, and discovered Newark Bay. Returning in the evening this boat encountered two canoes full of Raritan Indians, and one of the crew, John Colman, was slain by being shot with an arrow in the neck.

Another ship was sent from Holland in 1610 with goods to commence a traffic with the Indians. On the 11th of October, 1614, the West India Company was formed, the country named New Netherland and a regular intercourse and trade commenced. As early as 1620 settlers had built houses and occupied lands on the shores of New Jersey, adjacent to New Amsterdam, for which titles were granted, and on which improvements were made. But on the 20th of March, 1664, Charles II. King of England, granted to his brother James, Duke of York, "all that tract of land adjacent to New England, bounded on the East by the main Sea and part of Hudson River, and hath upon the West, Delaware Bay or River, and extendeth Southward to the main Ocean as far as Cape May at the mouth of the Delaware River," ignoring the discovery, occupancy and improvements made for the space of Forty Three years by the Hollanders, and resting title solely on the voyages of Cabot in 1497—8, along the coast of Labrador to the parallel of Gibralter and Verazzano in 1506.

Before the Duke had actually taken possession of any part of this territory, on the 23d and 24th of June, 1664, he "executed deeds of lease and release to Lord John Berkley and Sir George Carteret for the whole of that portion of it included within the bounds of the State of New Jersey," and called it Neo Caesaria, in compliment to Carteret, who had been Governor of the Island of Jersey, and defended it against the Cromwellians.

On the same day, he commissioned his brother Philip Carteret as Governor, who at once began to make preparations to take possession of his Province. In August, of the same year he arrived in a ship at Elizabethtown-Point, having on board some thirty persons, part of them servants. He found there a settlement of four families, and named it Elizabeth in honor of the wife of his brother, Sir George.

Between Berkley and Carteret, the Province was divided in East and West New Jersey. The line between the two parts was to run from "the East side of Little Egg Harbor, straight North through the country, to the utmost branch of the Delaware River." This line was run by George Keith, Surveyor General of East Jersey, in 1687.

The line began at Little Egg Harbor and ran "North by West, (3 degrees and 4 minutes more Westerly,) as the compass then pointed, until it reached Dobie's Plantation on the South branch of Raritan River, (a short distance below the mouth of the Neshanic Creek) thence along the rear of that and other plantations, until it intersects that part of the North branch of Raritan River which descends from a fall of water commonly known by the Indian name of Allamitung." This line was retraversed by John Chapman in 1721, but found to vary two degrees and twenty-three minutes in thirty-four years. It was not satisfactory to the Western proprietors, and in 1743 it was again surveyed by John Lawrence. His line passed near Somerville touching the white oak tree on the East side of the house formerly owned by John M. Mann and intersecting the Delaware River near the mouth of Dingman's Creek, several miles below the point originally designated. The difference between the two lines was impor-

tant, since the angle or gore of land between them contained about 528.640 acres of valuable land.

Sir George Carteret died in 1679, and by his Will, dated December 5, 1678, left his widow, Lady Elizabeth, Executrix and Guardian of his grand-son Sir Phillip's son, named also George, devising East Jersey to certain Trustees for the benefit of his creditors (see Whitehead 82) who sold it finally to Wm. Penn, with Eleven other Quaker associates for £3400. The deed of sale bears date Feb. 1 and 2, 1681 and 2.

Philip Carteret, the Governor, resided permanently at Elizabeth where the Proprietaries had a house built for him having an orchard and ground attached to it He married a daughter of Richard Smith, of Long Island, a widow Lawrence, in April, 1681. Murrary in his notes on Elizabethtown, says on the authority of tradition, that he died and was buried there. His Will is dated Dec. 10, 1682, and he died soon after. He had from his brother a grant of 2000 acres of land, and owned by purchase several other tracts, but never realized any profits from any of them. In his Will he directed his body to be placed in Gov. Stuyvesant's vault in New York, if liberty could be obtained, otherwise a grave to be purchased in the Church of New York. Where his remains rest, is not positively known.

On the 14th of March, 1682, the Duke of York confirmed the sale of the Province by giving a new grant, and Robert Barclay became Governor. He was a Quaker friend of Wm. Penn. He was superseded September of the same year by Thomas Rudyard. (See Whitehead, 88, 92.) Rudyard subsequently appointed Gawn Lawrie deputy, and again Lord Neil Campbell, who remained in the country less than a year. At the death of Barclay, Andrew Hamilton became Governor-in-Chief until June, 1689. He then vacated his authority and returned to Europe, but came back again in 1692, and resumed his position, but was superseded by Jeremiah Basse. The Provinces were united in 1702 and placed under the Government of Queen Anne.

Carteret's government of the Province of East Jersey was

not either successful or happy. Andros, of New York, claimed supreme authority in New Jersey as a dependency of New York, deposed Carteret, took him prisoner and conveyed him to New York and tried him, but his proceedings were finally overruled, and Carteret resumed his position and authority in the Province; but still we find an unsettled state of public opinion and the "tumultuous spirits" are frequently alluded to. The claim and collecting of quit-rents seem to have been the principal inciting cause, and though it continued under him and his successors some 38 years, the Proprietary Government proved finally a total failure On the 17th of April 1702, the proprietors of both East and West Jersey, sought the protection of the British Crown, and conceded all their rights of Government to the English Queen. (See S. 211, 218.) She committed the administration of it to her kinsman, Edward Hyde Lord Cornbury, a grandson of the Earl of Clarendon. the great English Chancellor. The instructions given him, together with the concessions and agreements which he published on assuming the government, formed the Constitution under which New Jersey lived and prospered until the Revolution. They formed, in fact, a safe and liberal Constitution ! It is almost a phenomenon in political history, that so much liberty should have emanated and been conceded to a new State by such a tyrannical Governor.

In Carteret's time there appear to have been only four Counties, Bergen, Essex, Middlesex and Monmouth. We find in the Laws passed by the Assembly convened at Amboy, November 5. 1675, provision made for the holding of two Courts in Bergen, on the first Tuesday in March, and the last Wednesday in September, for Elizabeth and Newark, the County of Essex, two Courts on the second Tuesday in March, and third in September ; for the two towns of Navesink, constituting Monmouth County, two Courts, on the last Tuesday in March and first in September ; for Woodbridge and Piscatawa, constituting the County of Middlesex, two Courts, third Tuesday in March and second in September.

Besides these there was to be a monthly Court for the

trial of small causes under 40 Shillings, held on the first Wednesday of every month, in each town, by two or three persons chosen by the Freeholders, one of whom was to be a Justice of the Peace.

There was also a Court of Assizes, or the Bench and Provincial Court, held once in a year at Woodbridge, or where the Governor and Council appointed. This was the Supreme Court, and appeals could only be taken to it from the County Courts when the sum involved was less than £20. From the Supreme Court appeal was to the Governor and Council.

Under the Proprietors, the Government consisted of the Governor with his Council, and the Deputies elected by the Freeholders in the several Townships. The first Legislative Assembly in Carteret's time, met at Elizabethtown on the 25th of May, 1668, and consisted of the following members :

GOVERNOR.—Philip Carteret.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.—Cap. Verlet, Mr. Daniel Pierce, Mr. Robert Bond, Mr. Samuel Edsall, Mr. Robert Van Quellen, Mr. Wm. Pardon, Mr. James Bollen, Secretary.

BURGESSES AND REPRESENTATIVES.—Mr. Caspar Steenmets, Mr. Balthazar Bayard for Bergen ; Mr. John Ogden, Sen'r, Mr. John Bracket, for Elizabethtown ; Cap. Robert Treat, Mr. Samuel Swarne, for Newark, upon Piskawack River ; Mr. John Bishop, Mr. Robert Dennis, for Woodbridge ; Mr. James Grover, Mr. Robert Bound, for Middletown ; Idem, for Shrewsburry.

The Assembly convened on May 26th, and the sessions closed on the 30th, adjourning to meet again on the 3d of November. It met at the time appointed, but adjourned finally on the fourth day, and seven years elapsed before another was convened.

The country under all the disadvantages experienced, advanced in population, however, and now, when again united contained 20,000 inhabitants, of whom 12,000 belonged to the East, and 8,000 to the Western portion. They were principally Dutch, Swedes, Scotch, English and New Englanders.

The following may be mentioned as Governors of New

Jersey after the union of the two Provinces : After Lord Cornbury was superceded in 1708, Lord Lovelace occupied his place in 1709, then Ingoldsby, Hunter, Burnet, Montgomery, Cosby, Hamilton, Morris, Belcher, Bernard and Franklin ; who was finally displaced by the outbreak of the Revolution.

The Province flourished from its first settlement, and in 1737 contained 47,402 inhabitants. These had increased in 1745 to 61,383. In 1790, eight years after the Revolution, it numbered 184,139.

SOMERSET COUNTY.

——:o:——

CHAPTER I.

The first settlement on lands embraced in Somerset County, began in the year 1681. On the first day of November in that year John Inians & Co., secured a title for two lots, embracing the land on which the City of New Brunswick now stands, having a mile of river front and two miles in depth. From the North of Inians & Co., to Bound Brook, there were laid out 19 lots, having a little less than one-half a mile on the river, and extending two miles in depth. The last of these lots with an adjoining plot on the south side, was owned by William Dockwra and contained 900 acres. Behind these, facing the Millstone, were two other lots ; the lower containing 800 acres, and belonging to George Willox, and the upper containing 500 acres was the property of Dockwra. From the mouth of the Millstone three and a half miles to an Island in the Raritan River (in front of R. H. Veghte's residence) thence South by West two miles, and east two miles to Millstone River, containing 3000 acres, exclusive of 250 acres of meadow, had been previously deeded to Capt. Anthony Brockholls, William Penhorn, John Robinson, Mathew Nichols and Samuel Edsall. The land was sold to John Royce & Co., of New York in 1685 and was to be known in future as Roycefield. The bounds as given in the deed of transfer were "beginning at a place called Hunter's Wigwam on Millstone River, thence north

by east, and north east to the Raritan River, opposite the West end of a small Island formerly belonging to Robert Van Quellen, and thence down the Raritan three and a half miles and up the Millstone to the place of beginning." Farther up the Millstone were twelve plots of 12000 acres owned by Polhemus Cortleyou. Lott and others located in 1701. John Harrison and William, his father, owned land at Rocky Hill. It was known afterwards as the Berrian place; and Washington wrote his farewell address in the house in which the Berrian's lived. For more specific information in reference to the early land titles, we can only refer to Corwin's Memorial.

On the north side of Raritan commencing at Bound Brook, was secured on the 4th day of May, 1681, the first land title. It was made by two Raritan Indians—Konackama and Queromak. The consideration was 100 pounds paid them in goods, the receipt of which from Philip Carteret, Governor of New Jersey, was acknowledged on the deed itself. The individuals to whom it was granted, were P. Carteret, John Palmer of Staten Island, Gent., Gabriel Minville, Thomas Codrington, John White, John Delavalle, Richard Hall and John Royce, of the city of New York. The land embraced in it extended from the mouth of the rivulet, now called Bound Brook, and by the natives, Sacunk ; thence along the Raritan River on the North side, to a brook called Raweighweros—Middlebrook—and from thence northward to a certain Stony Hill ; thence easterly to Metapes Wigwam, at the mouth of Cedar Brook, where it unites with Green Brook, and thence southerly along Bound Brook, to the place of beginning. This purchase included all the land now covered by the village of Bound Brook, up to the mountain, and west to Middlebrook, and was named by the Indians Rakahova-walaby. It was divided into five portions ; John Royce had 877 acres ; Thomas Codrington 877 acres next to him ; the Proprietors 1170 acres next to Bound Brook ; Thomas Codrington 1000 on the rear, next to Chimney Rock and the mountain. The remainder, north of the plot, belonging to the Proprietors, was not surveyed

immediately and entered, and we cannot, therefore, designate the owners.

The deed is recorded at Amboy, in L. I. page 146, and may still be seen by the antiquary. We have been thus specific, because it marks the time when civilization and the enterprise of improvement entered the precincts of Old Somerset. We may wonder why so long a time as that which elapsed between 1609 and 1681, should have intervened, but we must remember that all great things are small in their beginnings, and often long delayed in their progress.

The first deed, introduces us to some names which have an historical interest. Codrington settled on the west side of the plot—of which he was part owner—on the banks of Middlebrook, and became a man of extensive influence in the county. His name is still borne by some of the inhabitants of Somerset. The location of his habitation called Racawacabana, may be indicated by saying, it was recently owned by Dr. Samuel Swan ; it passed, soon after the Revolution into the hands of John Campbell, nephew of Lord Neil Campbell, at one time Deputy or Lieutenant Governor of East Jersey, and subsequently into others ; and finally into its present owners. It is one of the three first homesteads formed in our county.

Royce, another of the owners under the first deed, lived first at Piscataway and then in what has since been known as Roycefield, near the late residence of John J. Staats.—He was a merchant in New York, but came to Somerset county—probably soon after the date of this Indian purchase. He owned or claimed to own, a tract of 20,000 acres on the south side of the Raritan, about which some dispute existed. Andrew Hamilton, the Governor, writes of him in 1700, that "he had an old patent which contains 20,000 acres, but because the stations were uncertain and the boundaries would not meet, he addressed the proprietors at home for a new patent, which he had, and obtained about 6000 acres, for which he was to pay £5 a year for the whole, instead of 1-2 per acre, and the proprietors, forgetting to make him surrender his old patent, he now claims 20,000 by it, and so takes away upon Mill-

stone River from Mr. Hart, and on the Raritan, from Mr. Plumstead and Mr. Barker, considerable tracts of land; so that he uses both patents—the old one if he can, and the new one if the old fail him; it was a great oversight. He is the very leader of the troublesome sort of the people, and it is he that infuses the motive in them of holding to their Indian titles." This is not favorable altogether, to Mr. Royce. He, however, managed to maintain his position and influence, and was chosen the same year one of the Representatives of New Jersey in the Colonial Legislature; in his office as such, he questioned the authority of Gov. Hamilton to call a Legislative Assembly—insisting that it was not safe to act without the King's approbation. It appears that he had been one of the council of Hamilton, appointed on his arrival and entrance upon office in 1692. His associates were Capt. Isaac Kingsland, Capt. Andrew Browne, John Inians, David Mudie, James Dundas, Samuel Dennis, John Bishop and Lewis Morris. One of his descendants (it must have been) occupied the same position in Gov. Franklin's council when the Revolution commenced, and encouraged the capture and supersedure of the Governor when it became necessary to displace him. When the family sold their possesions and when they retired, is not known to the present writer. The name is still met with in New York city, and is also in existence in Northern New York and in Vermont. John Royce was a man of activity and energy in his day, and has left his trace upon our history in an unmistakable way. As one of the early pioneers, he is not to be forgotten, and ought not be suffered to pass without commanding his appropriate meed of honor. He was at all times a man of the people, and could be depended upon when resistance to authority was necessary to the defence of their rights. We esteem him as a true patriot.

The other names included among the signers of the deed, with the exception of Gov. Carteret, do not occur again in any documents or history of which we have any knowledge. They were citizens of New York, and, probably, never had any other connection with the affairs of our county, except that for a time they had a title to a portion of land in

it. Nor did Gov. Carteret in any special way connect himself with Somerset. Hisresidence was at Elizabeth, and his only association with us, is, in his being a native of the Island of Jersey ; which being under the Government of England, brought him here as a place man.

The second land title in Somerset County is dated December 12th, 1681 in the same year in which the foregoing was given It is signed by four Indians, viz : Machote, alias Keneckome, Awips, Negacape and Pamascome. The grantees are James Graham, Cornelius Corsen and Samuel Winder. The consideration is £120 ; and the boundaries are from Raweighweros, (Middlebrook), on both sides of the Raritan to a place called Rackahackawac, (apparently according to an ancient map,) the line between Caleb Miller and the late John M. Mann, and running on this line north until it reaches the mountain, and along the mountain until it reaches Middlebrook, and down said brook to the place of beginning. It included three plots based on the river, and at least five north of them along the mountain.

The first of these west of Middlebrook were assigned to John Palmer and contained 877 acres. The second belonged to John White, contained also 877 acres. The third remained unappropriated ; and on the north R. L. Hooper, Alexander McDowell, James Hooper, and "the heirs of Hooper," had large possessions. The exact amount included in this purchase is not stated, but it contained many broad acres, and would now be a princely inheritance. Somerville stands on it ; and besides this, more than thirty farms, whose fertility is unsurpassed by any portion of the county of Somerset were included in its wide extent.

None of the original purchasers of this plot seem to have had permanent connection with New Jersey, except Winder and Graham. Winder resided originally on Staten Island, but about this date, or soon after, he married a daughter of Gov. Rudyard and resided at Cheesequakes in Monmouth Co. ; at the close of his life he lived at Amboy. He was a man of influence in the province, and composed one of the council, chosen by Lord Neil Campbell, when

he assumed the government of East Jersey in 1686. Thomas Codrington, of whom we have heretofore spoken was another one of the members of the same council; the others were Gawen Lawrie, and Major John Berry, of Bergen and Isaac Kingsland of New Barbadoes, and Capt. Andrew Hamilton, of Amboy, Richard Townley, of Elizabethtown, and David Mudie and John Johnstone also of Amboy.

On this plot of land the earliest permanent settlements along this part of the Raritan, were formed. According to the declaration of John Worth of Elizabethtown, Codrington, Royce, White, Peter Van Nest, Jerome Van Nest, the Tunison's and Graham came and located here sixty years previous to 1741, or in 1681, the very year this land was bought. The residences of Royce and Codrington we have already designated. The Van Nest house was, it is said, on the very spot now occupied by D. Frelinghuysen's residence, and the Tunison's located where John C. Garretson now resides. But the residence of Graham we have not ascertained. He was a prominent man in the Province—more than once of the executive council, and he resided in the county somewhere on the river. He was a man of influence in those days, and yet he may not have remained any length of time on the Raritan. At all events, his name does not occur again in any historical documents with which we have formed acquaintance, referring to the progress of events in the county. Jerome VanNest and Peter settled permanently on the Raritan, and their descendants are yet among our most respectable citizens. But the original farm on which they first located has now for many years been in other possessor's hands. The Tunisons, Cornelius and John, came here from Fort Orange, now Albany, and were originally from the vicinity of Utrech, in Holland. The name is found early in collonial annals, and was prominent in more than one way; and it has become widely extended in our State. They were respectable from the beginning. When the First Church of Raritan was organized on the ninth day of March, 1699, John Tunison was elected the first Elder, and Peter Van Nest the first Deacon. On the

Saturday previous Jerome Van Nest had a daughter named Judith, baptized, and Peter Van Nest also a daurhter Jaquemina. The place where these services were held must have been at the house of either Tunison or Van Nest, probably the latter; and if so it would determine that the organization of the First Church was where D. Frelinghuysen now resides. From all the circumstances, we think this is almost certain.

If we should attempt to realize the state of things existing at that time, it might not vary much from the following imaginary picture. Four small dwellings, composed of logs standing not far from the smooth flowing river, in contracted spaces of cleared land, with a dense forest all around them—unbroken and almost impenetrable are the only human habitations in all the wide space now so thickly inhabited. Along the river side, in the lowlands, there were some open spaces on which Indians had practiced their rude efforts to raise a little corn and a few beans and pumpkins. Here hay could be mowed, or the cattle might find pasture. There was plenty of game and fish, but all of what we now regard as the necessaries of life, besides these, were hard to be obtained. Amboy or Elizabethtown, or perhaps Innian's Ferry, now New Brunswick, might supply some of them, but certainly not many. The roads had been cut out of the dense forest, and were difficult of passage with any wheel carriages, providing they had such things, which is not very probable! They may have been lonely sometimes, but they had the comfort of having ample space for their energies; and they had no bad neighbors to annoy them. But they began a great work by laying firmly the foundations of agriculture, commerce, religion and education for future generations. They must have been earnest men, full of self reliance; and yet not anticipating much of what has since been realized. The Van Nestes' came here from Long Island, and had been in the country from an early day. A Peter Van Nest came to New Amsterdam as early as 1647. He was the common ancestor of all those who at present bear the name. The family had some prominence in Holland in the time of William the Silent.—

One Van Nest was employed by him in Spain to give him notice of Philp's plans and purposes ; and what is more wonderful, he copied every night whatever Philip had written during the day, relating to the affairs in Holland, and sent it to William. He continued to do this for several years and yet escaped from Spain with his head on his shoulders ! Those who know how suspicious the Tyrant of Spain was, will never think it any less than a miracle, or at least a special influence of a watchful Providence, that protected him. So much depended on William being able to circumvent Philip, that the Almighty it would seem allowed him to fall into the snare laid for him, and all his secrets to be betrayed to his enemy. It must have demanded no small amount of circumspection to circumvent such a suspicious master of craft, and to deceive him for so long a time ; the success shows how much was ventúred in those evil days from the purest patriotism. If any clue to his practices had been obtained, the most cruel and painful death would have been his immediate punishment. It may even have had something to do with the emigration of the first Van Neste to New Netherlands, for such a man was never safe while Philip lived; he came to America the same year in which Frederick Henry Stadtholder and Prince of Orange died, and when the troubles at home were by no means settled. But whether the imigrant was in anyway connected with the agent of William of Orange, we cannot determine. Perhaps he was only a farmer, and sought our shores with a view of bettering his worldly estate. The first imigrant settled on Long Island 34 years before Peter Van Nest came to Raritan, and bore the same name. A part of the original farm was sold subsequently to the church, and on it Rev. John Frelinghuysen built his house, when he returned from Holland and succeeded his father in the Church of Raritan. It remained in possession of the church until after the resignation of the Rev. John Duryea, when it was sold to pay the debt which was owing him by the disaffected in the church. Another Van Nest, was Vice Admiral under De-Ruyter, in 1666, and fought the British under the Earl of Albemarle off the North Foreland ; in which engagement

the most astonishing endurance was manifested, and the ships of Van Nest and Van Tromp were entirely disabled and had to be abandoned, but neither of them thought of giving up the fight. The next year he blocked the mouth of the Thames, while De Ruyter was threatening the British coast.

The third purchase of land in Somerset County, is dated Nov. 19, 1681, and extended from the west line of the former plot, that is from the east side of the land, formerly owned by John M. Mann, to the foot of the mountain at Pluckamin ; and on the Raritan, the west line was the west point of the Island in front of R. H. Veghte's property, thence, running north, until it intersected a west line from the point of the mountain where the east line terminated. It embraced all the land between Caleb Miller's property on the east, and the old Patterson farm on the west, and extended north, nearly up to the village of Pluckamin, a broad and valuable tract, including some of the most beautiful farms in our vicinity, and on it, on Peter's Brook, stood the old Van Neste mansion, in which "Prince George" lived and died, but which has since been demolished.

The Indians selling it, were called Pawark and Manansamit, and the purchaser was Robert Van Quillen. It included the Island before mentioned, which was known by the Indian name of Matanique.

The whole splendid plot of rich land when surveyed, was divided into six portions. On the east side, joining the river, Graham and Winder had 1900 acres, north of them, Samuel Winder had 500 ; north of this, D. D. Dunstar owned 760 acres. Returning again to the river, John Robinson had 660, Archibald Riddle, 300 ; north of this plot, Sir John Dalrymple, 500 ; leaving a large plot north of it still unappropriated.

Who were the first settlers on this tract of land, and where the first house or houses were erected, we are not advised. It is probable however, that it was either where John M. Mann lived, or where the residence of Rev. F. F. Cornell is at present located. The large plot of low land south of these points was a favorite corn ground of the

Indians and had no forest on it, and was called by them Racka-wacka-hack.

At a very early period the Coejeman property was purchased and the Meddagh house afterwards J. M. Mann's is mentioned by John Lawrence, as being on the line between East and West Jersey, which he ran in 1719, and the large white oak tree still standing on the east side of the house was marked by him as being in that line. Another mark of the same line is still visible in a stone planted on the south bank of the river by the roadside, nearly in front of the house which John V. Veghte erected for his own residence, previous to removing to his father's. This line is called the "Quintipartate line," and extended from Little Egg harbor to a point on the Delaware in 41 degrees latitude. It was made for the purpose of dividing the claims of Sir George Carteret and the assigns of Lord Berkley and separated the Province of New Jersey into East and West Jersey ; a division continuing as long as the Proprietary Government lasted.

The Coejeman family came here as early as 1736. They were Hollanders, but came to the Raritan from Coejeman's on the Hudson river, and built the ancient brick house still standing in Raritan village. It was a very large and expensive mansion for that day. When they moved into it, it is said, they brought a "wheelbarrow load of silver plate." Staats Coejeman, an officer in the navy, some 40 years since, we believe, to have been the last male descendant.

Andrew Coejeman of Raritan, was the son of Barent Pieterse Coejeman's, who with his mother and three brothers, David, Jacob and Arent imigrated from Holland, to Rensellaer's Wyck 1636. They came originally from Utrech. Barent worked in the Patroons Grist Mill until 1645, then superintended his Saw Mill, then rented a farm and finally in 1683, with the consent of the Commissioners at Albany, purchased from the Kaats Kill Indians a large tract of land some twelve or fifteen miles south of the city, on the west side of the river. The inducement was the favorable situation of the land for the erection and running of Saw Mills. The purchase began at a point on the shore called Sieskasin opposite the middle of Jan Ryerson's Island

and ran south to the mouth of Peter Bronck's Kill, as Coxsakie Creek was then called, following up the creek to its scource, the line then ran west until it struck the head waters falling into the Hudson River. The land on the waters flowing west into the Schoharie Creek belonged to the Mohawks. From this point the line went north until it reached the lands of the Patroon, and thence along the south side of his patent to the Hudson River A patent was obtained for this land, some eight miles in length west, and nearly ten along the river side from Gov. Lovelace. April 9, 1693. A slight dispute arose with the Patroon about his jurisdiction, but in August 6, 1714, Queen Anne confirmed the whole to him and his heirs forever. Barent Pieterse Coejemans had five children, Andreas, Samuel and Peter,—sons,—and Aryantye and Jannetye, daughters. The eldest of these sons, Andreas or Andrew came to Raritan and built as above. It was a large brick house four rooms and a hall. one and one-half stories.

The family were buried near it but the grave stones are lost.

Andrew Coejemans, of Raritan, married a daughter of Dr. Samuel Staats, of Albany, and had four daughters and a son, Samuel Staats Coejeman. The daughters married as follows :

Catherine, an Irish gentleman named Neilson, by whom she had three children, John, James and Gertrude, and resided in New Brunswick.

Gertrude married Abraham Lott, and had four children, Catharine, Cornelia, Gertrude and Abraham.

Johanna married Col. White, and had three children, Gen. Anthony Walton White, who resided on the Raritan below New Brunswick, and Mrs. Governor Paterson and Mrs. Bayard.

Moyaca was a cripple and never married. She died at the house of Col. John Neilson, where she had been residing with her brother's children of whom Col. Neilson and Gov. Paterson had been appointed executors and Guardians.

Andrew Coejeman, son of S. Staats Coejeman, married

Anettje Schuyler, and had two children, Gertrude and Andrew.

Andrew married Jane Vandoren, and had three sons, Samuel Staats, John Neilson and Abraham Vandoren, all died and with them the name became extinct on the Raritan. Gertrude married George Farmer, and had one son and four daughters.

Andrew Coejeman also purchased of John Royce 400 acres on south side of Raritan—to be called Roycefield.

Many years since, the writer of these notes spent a night in the old Coejeman mansion on the Hudson, and saw the full length portrait of the Lady Coejeman which is preserved there. In a little Dutch bed in a large room in the second story of the old stone house, we dreamed of the olden times, and had many visions of stately dames in ruffs and high heels and stays passing before our mind. It was quite a romance in our young life, and the memory of it has never been defaced. It brought the past nearer than we had ever realized it before.

Robert Van Quillen, the purchaser of this third tract on the Raritan, figures quite largely in our early history. His character, however, is somewhat dubious. He may be called a Frenchified Dutchman, or, perhaps more properly a Dutchified Frenchman. He is represented as being a native of Caen, in France, and called De La Prie, and again La Prie. He was Surveyor General of the Province of East New Jersey for some time, and naturalized March 8, 1669. Beside his valuable possession on the Raritan, he had at an earlier date located for himself a large tract of land south of the Raritan, opposite Amboy, which one of the early Scotch settlers speaks of as being "but mean land." His purchase of the Indians on the Raritan, was on speculation, and he did not long retain the title of his possessions, and never lived in Somerset. His residence was at Elizabethtown.

He was one of Gov. Carteret's first council, in 1668—having as his associates Capt. Nicholas Verlett, Daniel Pierce, Robert Bond and Samuel Edsall. In 1674, during the administration of Gov. Colve, he is reported as having carried away a variety of goods from the house of Gov-

ernor Carteret, in Elizabethtown, which he declined to restore ; whereupon an order was issued from Fort William Henry, in New York, for his arrest, in company with one Singleterry, to be brought before the Governor. The explanation given is, that he held the goods out of friendship to Gov. Carteret, and in his interest ; which is probable, since Carteret had been, as it is now conceded, unjustly expelled from his rights as proprietor and Governor under the Duke of York's grant, and was soon after restored to his former position. When such restoration had taken place, in 1674, Van Quellen was appointed one of his council together with Capt. John Berry, William Sanford and John Pike, and Messrs. Lawrence Anderson and John Bishop Sr. ; Robert Bollen being Secretary of the Board. He seems also to have been concerned in the Elizabeth purchase, as appears from the oath of Jeremiah Osborn, appended to the Elizabethtown Bill in Chancery. In fact he was a greedy, grasping adventurer in his land speculations.

Though owning lands along the Raritan, his residence was constantly at Elizabethtown, which had become, not only the home of the Governor and the place where the Legislature met, but besides, a place of considerable importance, comprising within its limits at least 700 inhabitants, with 40,000 acres of land under cultivation. The Governor is said to have had a house, orchard and farm within the town limits, indicating that he was surrounded with all the comforts possible in a new settlement.

One of the very best plantations embraced in this third purchase, was owned at the opening of the Revolution by a lawyer named Peregrine Lagrange, who, from conviction and choice, took the part of the British Government in the conflict which ensued. As a consequence his property was confiscated and sold at public auction. It was purchased by William Patterson, afterwards Governor of the State, and one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, or soon after came into his possession ; and is still known as "The Patterson Farm," and on it he resided for several years. Here, in a stone house, some eighty years ago, Mrs. Van Rensellar, wife of Gen. Stephen Van

Rensellar, commonly known as the "Patroon of Albany," was born and grew up to early girlhood. She retained a vivid and grateful memory of the old home on the Raritan, and after the death of her husband, intended to purchase it and make it her residence ; but being urged by her daughters first to consent to accompany them for a year to France, she returned only to die in a few months after reaching her home in Albany ; and the purpose failed.

It is one of the instances which prove the power of early associations. Probably when she came to see the old homestead she would have been greatly disappointed, and deterred from carrying out her intentions.

Dirk Middah resided on the place owned by John M. Mann, as early as 1699, and his name is among the first on the Church records. It was one of the most desirable locations on the Raritan, overlooking those beautiful meadows which lay south between it and the river. The old white oak tree, already referred to, standing on the east side of the house is a memorial of the olden time. It stood there in 1743, one hundred and thirty-five years since. When John Lawrence marked it as in the Quintapate line, it was already a large tree, and it ought to be left standing as long as vitality remains in it, as a landmark of the past. When Lawrence came to the south side of the river it was evening, and he sought for quarters for the night. He was promised accommodations in the house of a Mr. Fulkerson, (who lived near the present cemetery), but when he came there, the good wife did not relish the idea of admitting strangers to her domicile, and scolded her husband to such a degree, that Lawrence thought best to decamp ; and he went back towards Roycefield, where he found a house without a scolding dame, and slept in peace. He gives quite an amusing account in his journal of his disappointment and the lady who occassioned it.

The fourth purchase of land from the Indians on the Raritan, extended from the western boundary of the last mentioned plot up to the junction of the north and south branches. This place was called by the natives, Tuck-a-rama-hacking, From this point the line ran east of north to a place nearly equidistant between the North Branch

and Lamington river, at or near what was the late turnpike bridge above Burnt Mills ; thence due east, until it met the line of the former purchase ; and thence south to the place of beginning. The aboriginal owners conveying this land, are called Pawark, Cowalanuck, Manamasamet Agnamapamund ! The purchasers were John Robinson, William Pinhorn, Richard Jones, and Matthew Taylor. The consideration was, "certain goods mentioned in the deed," and the date Nov 19, 1681.

This plot was afterwards surveyed and divided as follows : William Pinhorn, had deeded to him, March 8, 1697, 500 acres on the east side and 160 on the river ; Lord Neil Campbell, Jan. 9, 1685, had 1650 acres—embracing all the land between Pinhorn and the junction of the two branches, and extending north as far as Pinhorn's grant extended. Immediately north of these two grants and including all that remained on the east side of North Branch, William Ackman had 400 acres ; Archibald Riddle 300 ; and Sir John Dalrymple 500 acres. The land on the west side was taken by John Johnson, while Lord Neil appropriated to himself another 1000 acres and other smaller proprietors, whose deeds extended west and embraced land beyond the western line of the Indian grant and reached the present boundary of Branchburgh township took the balance. Their names were Michael Hawden, George Willocks, Miles Foster and Thomas Gordon, and their deeds all bear the date of 1703.

None of the individuals who had, in this way, become proprietors of land, occupied their possessions except Lord Neil Campbell ; Matthew Taylor is not mentioned again ; Pinhorn resided on the Passaic river near Bellville, and was a man of some note in his day. He was a member of Gov. Basse's council in 1698 from Bergen county. His associates were Thomas Codrington, of Somerset, and Thomas Warne, of Middlesex. He was also interested with Kingsland and Berry in settling and cultivating lands on what has long been known as Barbadoes-Neck, but more recently, Rutherford Park ; a man of intelligence culture and talents ; probably an emigrant from the Island of Barbadoes, whence Kingsland and Berry had come.

Lord Neil Campbell was a brother of the Duke of Argyle and was concerned with him in the unfortunate expedition in favor of "the handsome Duke of Monmouth," the son of Charles 11., and Lucy Warters. Besides being himself implicated in an enterprise which proved a desperate failure, and sent scores of honest and honorable men to a premature and bloody grave, he had two sons, John and Archibald already in New Jersey, who had been also compromised in the same unfortunate rebellion against the Government. John is mentioned as early as 1685, with his wife and three children and eleven servants, as a resident in New Jersey. He was the owner of 1870 acres of land on the west side of South Branch, beginning near Corle's Mills and extending west to the township line. John Campbell, with John Dobie, John Drumond, Andrew Hamilton, owned all the land from Holland's brook up to where the west line of Branchburgh meets the South Branch. Their deeds are dated Nov. 9, 1685, the autumn of the year in which he left Scotland. But it is not known to the present writer that he ever resided on this land.

Lord Neil Campbell was appointed Deputy Governor by the proprietors of East New Jersey for two years on the 4th of June 1685, and reached the Province in the ensuing October. His residence was on his plantation on the banks of the Raritan ; the property is now owned by George McBride. He had sent 65 servants to settle on it previous to his coming. He must have arrived in September. On the 5th of October his commission was read, and on the 18th his council named. It consisted of Gawen Lawrie, Maj. John Berry, of Bergen, Isaac Kingsland of New Barbadoes, Captain Andrew Hamilton of Amboy, Richard Townley of Elizabeth, Samuel Winder of Cheesequakes, David Mudie, John Johnson of Amboy and Thomas Codrington of Raritan.

But whatever motives may have induced Lord Neil Campbell to come to New Jersey and assume the administration of its affairs, his stay was very short. On the 10th of December he appointed Anthony Hamilton his substitute, being, as is said, constrained by the urgent necessity of some weighty affairs, to return to Scotland. What

were the "weighty affairs" and what the necessity of attending to them is not explained. He remained however permanently in his Scottish home, and left his interests here to be attended to by his sons. If his absence was intended to be temporary, it was a disappointment, for it proved to be perpetual. The reason of it is not apparent. The aspect of things had probably changed in Scotland, or else some important pecuniary interest required his attention there. He had been appointed, no doubt, so far as the proprietors were concerned, as a matter of policy, and it had succeeded, to a certain extent at least, for it induced imigration to some extent.

There are references in the Records of the province, to the following persons as having emigrated and settled permanently about this time, viz ; Dec. 16, 1864, Gawen Lawrie and 8 persons ; William Haize 8 ditto ; the Proprietors, 22 besides 2 overseers ; Captain Thomas Pearson Nov. 24, 1684, 14 ; William Dockwra Dec. 14, 1684, 24 ; and subsequently ten more ; John Barclay, 6 in 1683; Robert Fullerton 9, John Campbell 8, Andrew Hamilton 10, David Mudie 17, Lord Neil Campbell 56, James Johnson 9, John Forbes 4, George Keith 6, Charles Gordon 5, in all nearly 200 persons. These imigrants remained, and many of them became afterwards prominent men in the affairs of the province. About the same time, also, George Scot, of Pitlochie wrote and published a work entitled "the model of the Government of East Jersey in America ;" in which, great encouragement was attempted to be given to emigration to that beautiful and promising region. There is a curious conveyance on record (says Whitehead) under date of Dec. 16, 1684, by which one Moneybaird, makes over to John Campbell, the son of Lord Neil Campbell, all his interests in Perth Amboy, in consideration of the said Campbell's sending a footman to wait on Moneybaird during Parliament in New Jersey, and holding his stirup. Great things were expected, and there were men who saw visions in those days, as in our more humdrum and money getting age—greater things than will ever be realized. Archibald Campbell, another son of Lord Neil Campbell, came to New Jersey in 1684,

immediately after the termination of his uncles expedition. He had been engaged in this raid from the Highlands, as well as his father. Two sons of Argyle, John and Charles, and their cousin, the Archibald Campbell of whom we are writing, were sentenced to death and forfeiture of estate ; but the sentence was afterwards so far modified as to remit the penalty of death. Archibald Campbell died in May 1702, and it is uncertain whether he left any children. John had died before him, in December 1689 leaving one son and two daughters. John Campbell who built and owned the Herbert Mills, and Alexander Campbell who lived last on the Codrington place were descendants. There is an old Bell used in the Academy of Bound Brook, which belonged to Campbell. It has an inscription dated 1734 at Amstereodam—Amsterdam—and is a valuable relic of the olden times. It is said that Archibald Campbell used it in calling in his slaves from their field labors. He lived in Baronial style on Herbert's Island and called it Kells Hall, and employed a numerous company of men and maidens in his house and farm labors.

The plantation of Kell's Hall was owned about the time of the Revolution, by Cornelius Van Horn, a merchant of New York, and about 1800 it came into the possession of George Smock. It has always been considered one of the most valuable farms on the Raritan.

John Campbell resided in a house which stood near the river banks, almost directly south of the Railroad Depot in Bound Brook. It has only recently been removed, and it will be remembered by the more aged inhabitants, as an old dilapidated mansion which had had great pretentions, and was in its last days inhabited by a family of Jews.

Alexander the last of the Campbells resided on the Codrington place and died some 40 years since. So far as we know or have been able to ascertain there are no male representatives of Lord Neil Campbell living in New Jersey at the present time.

The Argyle family was, and is still, one of the most prominent among the aristocracy of Scotland. Lord Lorn who had married a daughter of Queen Victoria is a lineal descendant of the Duke of Argyle who was the brother

of Lord Neil Campbell, and uncle of John and Archibald Campbell.

The plantation of Lord Neil Campbell on the Raritan, in process of time passed into the hands of William Cook ; then John Elmendorf inherited it, and left it to his son Peter, who sold it to the present proprietor, Immediately east of this farm, a Mr Potter, of Philadelphia owned some four hundred acres of land. It passed from him in to the hands of John Simonson, Esq., and is now owned in part by the heirs of Peter V. Staats, deceased. A portion of it the late Gusbert B. Vroom of New York, purchased, and his family resided there for some time after his death.

On the west side of South Branch, commencing at Holland's Brook and proceeding south there were five deeds given, each one extentding west to the township line, viz : First, April 25, 1687, to Andrew Hamilton 510 acres ; next John Drumond 1000 acres Nov. 9, 1685 ; next, Andrew Hamilton same date 750 acres ; next, John Campbell, one of the sons of Lord Neil Campbell, same date 1874 acres ; next, John Dobie same date 395 acres ; which brings us up to the South Branch and the intersection of the township line, in other words to "the Hookee." West of this line and south of the river, was all included in "the Lotting purchase" which extended up to the New Jersey Society's lands." That purchase included the Cushetonk Hills (Pickels mountain) Round Valley and all the land west to the Delaware !

Beginning again at Holland's Brook, north side, there were twelve plots of land surveyed, and the deeds were given to the following persons ; viz : First to Andrew Hamilton Oct. 13, 1689, 250 acres ; next, Hendrick Corson June 10, 1688, 500 ; next, Thomas Gordon 500, May 10, 1703, and in the meantime Peter Van Nest seemes to have been the owner of the previous 500 acres of Thomas Gordon, for the plot is said to begin at the Van Nest corner ; next Miles Foster had 466 and the deed dated the same time as the former ; next, Michael Hawden 466 acres same date ; next, Lord Neil Campbell 1000 May 24, 1690; next, Johnson a small plot of 61 acres ; and again John

Johnson 400 May 10, 1690 ; and the remainder running up to the Lamington river, and west to the township line belonging to Willocks, Johnson, Campbell and Blackwood. On the other side of the North Branch, And West owned 912 acres. This land passed subsequently into the hands of the famous Duchess of Gordon, who married General Staats Morris a brother of Gouverneur Morris ; and this ownership has been the occasion of that neighborhood being called "the Duchess"

Between Lamington River and North Branch, Maj. Axtell owned a large and valuable tract of land, out of which Campbell and Blackwood purchased 3900 acres in 1693 ; Margaret Winder 1000 on May 20, 1690 ; Johnson and Willocks 3150 June 6, 1701. This last survey included all the lands in Peapack valley ; and finally Andrew Hamilton obtained a deed for 875 acres on Lamitunk, Feb. 25, 1740. This brings us to the Morris County line.

The land north of Somerville, embracing the first and second mountain and the valley between them beginning at or near Pluckamin, was deeded to Alexander McDowell Dec. 12, 1727 ; and Margaret Tiepel, John Parker, Judiah Higgins, and others owned all the remainder until a point directly north of Bound Brook. North of the mountains on Dead River, Parker, Hooper, George Riscarick, Joseph Jennings, Nathaniel Rolph and others owned lands. Northeast of Bound Brook and between the mountains, David Cosart, Daniel Hollingshead, the heirs of Anthony Sharp and others, had in possession large tracts. South of the Passaic, William Dockwra and Robert Barclay had 2000 acres, Robert Morris in trust for Ashfield's estate, D. D. Dunstar and James Alexander were large owners in the same vicinity. Their purchases dated Oct. 1742 ; and Dunstar and Alexander, and Budd and Alexander extended their titles up north, into Morris county. We refer those who are desirous of more specific information on the subject of early land titles on the North side of Raritan, to the Elizabethtown-Bill-in-Chancery, printed by James Parker, New York 1747. Library of the Historical Society of New Jersey, with maps.

A remark seems here to be called for. It will be seen by

adverting to the names of the original owners of land, by Indian purchases, along the Raritan, that they appear to have been nearly all Scotchmen, and that none of them really became permanent residents. The explanation is this. The principal and most active proprietors of East New Jersey, were inabitants of Scotland, and their efforts to induce emigration and settlements upon their lands were made in their native country. As the effect of this Amboy was fixed upon as a site for a town and was named New Perth ; and from thence settlements of people from Scotland and England spread out northwest and west as far as Scotchplains, Plainfield and Bound Brook, and single families even further. From this immigration the Churches of Bound Brook, Basking Ridge and Lamington proceeded. It was an influx coming almost entirely, direct from Scotland ; and the first Pastors of these churches were all native Scotchmen ; Scotch Presbyterians of the Knox, Rutherford and Erskine stamp. Besides this, there were several families of German origin, and of the Lutheran Church, who settled about Pluckamin. The beginning of this influx is probably mark by one of the land titles which we have given above—that of Margaret Teiple 1727. The Lutherans built, at an early day, a house of worship in the village of Pluckamin, and in connection with New Germantown and German Valley, engaged the services of a minister, or ministers, of their own denomination for a term of years. Mr. Muhlenbergh in his youth, it is stated. ministered to them for a time.

CHAPTER II.

FIRST SETTLEMENT AND SOME OF THE EARLY INHABITANTS.

When the title to the land on the Raritan had been secured, settlers at once came to occupy it. It was, of course, in a state of nature, clothed with its primitive forests and inhabited by wild animals, and wilder men.

The inducements leading those who came from Long Island and New York to seek a home in the wilderness, was, first, to enjoy full religious liberty in serving God. Gov. Lovelace favored the Episcopal Church, and threw many obstacles in the way of those who belonged to the Dutch Church, of enjoying their own services in peace. Rather than yield one iota to his interference, they expatriated themselves a second time and came into the Province of New Jersey, where the "Concessions and Agreements" secured ample religious toleration from the very beginning. We cannot but honor their spirit and commend their attachment to the truth as they had learned it and believed it.

Another and a second motive was no doubt found in the rich and unoccupied lands along our beautiful river, which seemed to invite the imigrant and promise him an abundant reward for his labor in their culture and improvement.

The earliest reliable recorded notice which we have seen of the Raritan river, is found among the Albany records, and is dated 1663, when the trade in furs with the Indians had begun to excite the cupidity of the English, and led to remonstrances on the part of the Dutch of Manhattan Island. There is, indeed, said to be in the same records, a letter from Herr Van Werkhoven to Baren Vander Capellan, stating that the lands about Nevesink and the Raritan's Kill, had been purchased for him in 1649, and complaining that they had not been allotted to him. This only shows that the value of these lands was already

known as early as 30 years after the first settlements were formed around the "Trading Post" on Manhattan Island. Ogilby says in 1671, "that both sides of the Raritan are adorned with spacious meadows, enough to feed thousands of cattle. The wood land is very good for corn, and stored with wild beasts ; as deer, elks, and an innumerable multitude of fowl, as in other parts of the country. This river is thought very capable for erecting of several towns and villages on each side of it ; no place in North America having better convenience for the maintaining of all sorts of cattle for winter and summer food."

As a matter of curiosity, and not from any idea of its value or importance in any historical sense, but only as an illustration of the way in which the Indians "romanced" and practiced on the credulity of white men, we shall quote a notice of our river from a description of New Albion (as New Jersey was then called,) by Beauchamp Plantagenet, Esq , dated 1648, a year earlier than Van Werkhover's claim. He says. "the Indians of New Jersey were under the dominion of about twenty kings; that there were 1,200 under two Raritan kings ; that the seat of the Raritan king is said to have been called by the English Mount Ployden, twenty miles from Sandhay Sea, and ninety from the Ocean, west to Amara Hill, the retired Paradise of the children of the Ethiopean Emperor—a wonder, for it is a square rock, two miles compass, 150 feet high, a wall like precipice, a straight entrance, easily made invincible, where he keeps 200 for his guards, and under is a flat valley, all plain to plant and sow."

If we were inclined to favor such romance, we should claim that no place so well answers the above description as the bluff in the gorge of Chimney Rock, north of the little bridge on the west and east sides of which the two rivulets flow and meet a few yards southward in the main gorge. But we are not disposed to practice on the credulity of our readers, as the Indians evidently did, on Beauchamp Plantagenet, Esq.

The savages who lived permanently on the Raritan (and there were only a few of the Raritan tribe who did so,) had very fertile corn lands on the meadows, which they

appreciated and planted—proving that they were not generally wooded, but on the contrary, were of the nature of a prairie or savannah. This feature afterwards, formed one of the main attractions to settlers, and induced the first who came there to locate on the *first upland*, contiguous to these natural meadows, where they found at once abundant pasturage for cattle, and a soil ready for the plow. Hence in point of fact, all the first buildings from Bound Brook to the junction of the two branches, stood on the edge of this upland, and there our principal farm houses are still found standing.

Exceptions, are however mentioned, in three instances, of huts standing on the meadows, inhabited by Scotch people. Two north of the late residence of R. Veghte, Esq., and one near the former dwelling of H. Garretson, but we cannot imagine how they could have been inhabited for more than one summer. Our beautiful river has a habit of inundating all its meadows in the winter, which would make living on them extremely inconvenient if not impossible.

The Indians living on the Raritan were only the remnant of the large and numerous tribe once located here. It is said they left and went to live at Metuchen, because the freshets in the river spoiled the corn which they were in the habit of burying in pits on the low lands. Another inducement was the fish, oysters and clams, so easily obtained on the shores of the Raritan Bay. The immense heaps of shells found in several localities on its shores, attest the rich harvest which they had gathered out of its waters. A few huts were found on the south side of the river opposite the village of Raritan ; and they had a "burial place" on the second river bank at the gate of R. H. Garretson.

We may imagine then, how the lonely river flowed on for centuries between its willow fringed banks, from summer to winter, while the rich grass on its meadows wasted because there were no animals, except a few deer, who fed upon it ; and how the wild fruits afforded feasts for the squirrel and the forest bird, or perished untouched, because there was no living creature present to enjoy the

bountiful repast. It might almost without romance be called a "*retired Paradise,*" but without its "*Ethiopian Emperor*" to rule over it. That it remained untrodden so long, is certainly marvellous, unless the few white men in the country, and the distance from New York made it too great an effort to reach such an inviting place. From 1624, when the Dutch began to colonize at first, until 1681 May 4th, when the first land title is dated, a period of 57 years, no one seems to have seen or been attracted by the beauty and fertility of our wide spreading valley, or ventured to endeavor to reclaim it from its wild, untrodden wilderness state. Its primitive inhabitants even, had deserted it almost entirely, and gone towards the sea shore, attracted by the abundant food; and only bird and beast claimed it as their home. But the time came when a different state of things began to exist.

The titles for the fertile lands had been secured and settlers came to occupy them. Some of these have been already mentioned and we find that from 1681 to 1699 there had arrived from Long Island the following heads of families mostly of Dutch, extraction :

Coers Vroom, Michael Hanson, Andrew Allyn, Michael Van Veghten, Dirk Middagh, Frederick Garretson, John Wortman, Peter Van Nest, Jeronemus Van Nest, Jacob Sebring Isaac Bodine, Edward Drinkwater, James Tunison, Cornelius Tunison, Pieter Dumont, Maurice Maurison, Johannes Dameld, John Roelefson, Hendrick Rynierson, Thomas Possell, Cornelius Powelson, Jan Hans Coeverden, Folkerd Hendrik Harris, Josias Merlet, Andrew Anderson, Elton Nyssen, William Olden, William Clausen, Lawrence Opdyke, William Mouersen, Reuben Jansen, Gabriel Lebersteiu, Folkerd Hendricksen.

At North and South Branch, Andreas Ten Eyck, Abraham Dubois, John Pussell, Josias Claesen, Jan Hendrickson, Daniel Sebring, Coenrad Ten Eyck, Derick Van Veghten, Alexander McDowel, Jan Van Sieklen, Benjamin Bart, Jacob Stoll, Teunis Van Middlesworth, George Hall, Albert Louw, William Rosa, Paulus Bulner, Lucus Schermerhorn, Pieter Van Nest, Emanuel Van Etten, Johanes

Grauw, John Emens, Coert Jansen, George Dildine, John Reading, Garret Van Vleet, William Brown, John Cook, Hendrick Roesenboom, Frans Waldron, Godfried Peters, David Busum, David Subair, Abram Broca, Jacob Reynierse, Garret Smock.

In the vicinity of New Brunswick, were Adrian Bennet, Aart Artsen, Roelif Sebring, Johanes Folkerson, Hendrick Bries, Roelif Voorhees, Lawrens Willimse, Roelif Nevius, Jan Van Voorhees, Jacob Ouke, Johanes Stoothoff, Jaqes Fonteyn, Jacobus Buys, Thomas Auten, Thomas Davidts, William Klassen, Johanes Coevert, Hendrick Bries, Andrias Wortman, Bernardus Kuetor, Christopher Van Arsdalen, Jacob Corse, Cornelius Suydam, Joris Andersen, Martin Vanderhoeve, Johanes Metselaer, Samuel Montfort, Jan Aten, William Moore, Nicklas Bason.

At Three Mile Run, Hendrick Bries, Roelf Lucas, Jan Voorhees, Aert Aertsen, Isaac Van Dyke, Johanes Folkersen, Jan Aeten, Laurens Willimse, Roelif Nevius, Charles Fonteyn, Hans Stoothoff, Thomas Bouwman, Derck Volkerse, Garret Bolmer, Jan Lavor, Simon Wickoff, Pieter Hoff, Garret Dorland, Andries Bort, Jan Broca, James Fonteyn, Adrian Mollenar, Jacob Rapleyea, Joris Hael, Jan Laeten, William Lambers, Peter Kinne, Hendrick Traphagen, Luycus Schermerhorn, Jans Van Middlesworth, Johannes Fisher, Joeremias Field, Luycas Wessels, Jacob Koersen, Nicholas Hayman, Cornelius Jan Onwegen, William Harrise, Andreas Ten Eyck, William Dey, Manuel Van Allen, Abram Elemeteren, Johannes Seigeler, Jaurien Remer.

We are not able to indicate specifically or certainly the place of residence of each of these families. The Sebring's and Harris's lived in the vicinity of Bound Brook, Pieter Dumont on the south side of the Raritan, Powelson's near Pluckamin ; all of them evidently did not remain permanently or leave descendants. The names of others continue to occur in the records for many years, but some of them have at last passed away. All of them we judge were religious men, and aided in the formation of the Raritan Church, then a church in the wilderness. Most of them are known to have imigrated to Somerset from

Long Island ; and among them there are several names which indicate a Huguenot origin. Somerset County has had in fact a large infusion of this noble blood ; and among the family traditions, in many instances, linger interesting reminisences of the night of St. Bartholemew, at the time when they fled from France to Holland, leaving their all behind and never looking back ; rescuing only their life their children and their silver from the deadly spoiler !

As a matter of curiosity we give a list of Hugenot names once residents on the Raritan and in the vicinity of Somerville, viz : Jacob Gebring, Isaac Bodyne, Pieter Dumont, Johannes Daneld, Thomas Possell, Josias Merlette, Gabriel De Beten, William Breille, Jan Lavor, Peter La Fevre, Jacob Rappleyea, Jan La Far, Frans Lukas, Isaac Brillne, Pieter Petrie, Edo Montagne, Abram Lafoy, Jacob Probasco, John La Voss, Antonie Le Grange, Jan Fonteyne, John Brocauw.

It would seem as if the first settlers along the Raritan were left in a state of almost entire religious destitution for nearly 20 years. There are some notices of persons who labored in preaching the Gospel in the vicinity of Amboy and Elizabeth, but upon the Raritan no such labors are known to have been permanently afforded until March 9, 1699, when the Rev. Guliam Bartholf left a record of his having been at Raritan, preaching, ordaining an Elder and a Deacon, and babtising three children, Judith Van Nest, Abraham Tunison, and Jaquemina Van Nest. Twenty years in a wilderness without the Gospel must certainly have left strong traces, and these not for good, upon the minds of the people so circumstanced.

Twenty years more and the inhabitants of "Old Raritan" as it was commonly called then, felt themselves able to do something for the maintenance of the christian ordinances of the church, and united with others in calling the Rev. Theodorus Jacobus Frelinghuysen. About the same time they commenced the erection of a church on the land of Michael Van Veghten—who generously donated the site to the congregation—and on the 11th, of December, 1721, this house was opened for divine worship. It continued to be the place where religious services were held

until Oct. 27, 1779, when it was burned by the Queen's Rangers under command of Colonel Simcoe. It stood on the north side of the river a short distance below the old bridge. Around it there were a few graves already almost forgotten. But the corn and the wheat growing over them, does not disturb the peaceful sleepers in their resting place. The principal interest, centering now in that almost forgotten cemetery, is in the circumstance that, in an unknown grave there, rest *probably* the remains of Mrs. Van Burgh, the mother of Juffvrouw Hardenburgh, who came from Holland—whither Dr. Hardenburgh had gone for her 1763—to reside with her daughter after the death of her husband, and died in the parsonage at Somerville. The year of her decease is not known by any of her descendants. If these precious remains are not resting there, then they must have been deposited on the bank of the meadows, near the old Parsonage, where John Hardenburgh and his wife, with others, are buried. But strange as it may seem to us, there is no monument in either place to commemorate one so loved and honored in her life time.

For half a century after the times of which we have been speaking, not much of any special interest seems to have occurred along the Raritan. The people were industrious and thriving, the church increased in strength under the labors of the two Frelinghuysens and Hardenburgh, and society began to be well ordered and law abiding. Before the Revolution there were at least eight Dutch Churches in the Valley of the Raritan and Millstone river, viz: At Brunswick, Six Mile Run, Millstone, Harlingen, Raritan, Neshanic, Readington and Bedminster; besides a Presbyterian Church at Bound Brook, a Lutheran Church at Pluckamin, a Presbyterian Church at Lamington, and German Reformed Church at Amwell. All these had comfortable houses of worship and a well ordered discipline. Less than a hundred years had passed since the European first established his home on our river and its branches, and all this had been done principally by a few emigrants from the old land of Dykes and Marshes, none of whom brought much besides their energies and thrift to help them on in life; but they wrought earnestly and saw the effects

of their efforts spreading around their homes. The County was formed in 1688 only seven years after the Indian titles to its lands were extinguished. Thus all the advantages of a well organized civil government were enjoyed even almost from the first year of its settlement by the inhabitants of Somerset County. The first things were small, but time has made them large and valuable.

CHAPTER III.

THE COUNTY FORMED.

From the time that the first settlers came to the Raritan until 1688, they were considered as included in Middlesex and depended upon the courts there for the administration of civil justice. The act providing for a new county and naming it Somerset, is a curious piece of primitive legislation. It recites in the preamble "forasmuch as the uppermost part of the Raritan river is settled by persons, whom, in their husbandry and manuring their lands, are forced upon quite different ways and methods from the other farmers and inhabitants of Middlesex county, because of the frequent floods that carry away their fences on the meadows, the only arable land they have, and so, by consequences of their interests, are divided from the other inhabitants of said county ; Be it therefore enacted, &c. : The bounds are described in the following manner : Beginning at the mouth of the Bound Brook, where it empties into the Raritan River, and to run up the said brook to the meeting of Bound Brook with Green Brook, and from the said meeting, to run a northwest line into the hills ; and upon the southwest side of the Raritan River, to begin at a small brook, where it empties itself into the Raritan about 70 chains below the Bound Brook, and from thence to run up a south west line to the uttermost line of the Province, be divided from the said county of Middlesex, and hereafter to be deemed, taken and be a county of this Province ; and that the same county be called the county of Somerset, any statue, law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding. See Leaming & Spicer's Grants, Concessions, and acts of the Proprietary Government p 305.

In June 21, 1709, a more definite description is given probably the result of an actual survey. It is to the fol-

lowing effect: Beginning where Bound Brook empties into Raritan River, thence down the stream of Raritan to the mouth of a brook known by the name of Lawrence's brook: thence running up the said Lawrence's brook to the great road that leads from Innian's Ferry to Cranberry brook; from thence south 44 degrees westerly to Sanpink Brook; thence down said Sanpink Brook to the division line of the eastern and western division aforesaid; and so to follow the said division line to the limits of the above said county of Essex; thence east along the line of Essex county to great Brook, and thence running down the said Great Brook and Bound Brook to where it began.

These bounds were again modified Nov. 4th, 1741, the boundary as then given between Somerset and Middlesex Counties is the following: "Beginning at the south branch of Raritan River where the reported division line of East and West Jersey strikes the same; thence along the same to a fall of water commonly called Allamatunk; from thence along the boundary of Morris County to Passaic River; thence down the same to the lower corner of Wm. Dockwra's two patents on the same river; thence on a line southeast to the head of Green Brook, and thence down the same to Bound Brook; thence along Bound Brook to the place where it empties into the Raritan river; thence down Raritan river to the place where the road crosseth said river at Innian's Ferry; from thence along said old road which leads by Jedediah Higgin's house towards the falls of the Delaware, until it intersects the division line aforesaid; thence along said division line to the south branch of Raritan river aforesaid, where it began."

March 28, 1749 the bounds were thus defined: Beginning at a fall of water called the Alamatunk Falls; and from thence in a straight line in a course east and by north as the compass now points, to the main branch of Passaic river, and so down the said river as the before sealed act directs.

By an act passed Nov. 24, 1790, it was again enacted that the middle of the main six rod road, from the Ferry at the city of New Brunswick, formerly called Innian's Ferry, to the boundary line of the county of Hunterdon, on

the road to Trenton, shall be the boundary line of those parts of the counties of Middlesex and Somerset which are on the south side of the river Raritan, and that all the lands and tenements lying to the northward of this line and heretofore belonging to the county of Middlesex shall be and are hereby annexed to the county of Somerset, and all the lands and tenements on the southward of said lines, heretofore belonging to Somerset shall be and are hereby annexed to the county of Middlesex.

In 1838 a portion of the Township of Montgomery, surrounding Princeton, was taken from Somerset and annexed to the new county of Mercer; and finally a part of Franklin east of the Mile Run and extending to the north side of Albany street, New Brunswick, was annexed to the city limits for the purpose of the better police supervision of the city; since which time no further modification of our county has been attempted, if we except the annexation of the Township of Tewksbury for a short time.

Somerset County embraces a portion of the most fertile lands in the State, and its productiveness is exceeded by no other of equal extent. For intelligence, culture and refinement, its inhabitants are excelled nowhere. It has given the State and Nation some of their noblest men, at the bar, on the bench and in the pulpit. Society is nowhere better ordered, property more secure, or comfort and happiness more generally diffused.

CHAPTER IV.

COURTS, AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Somerset County, though formed in 1688, was not fully organized until 1724. It had no courts of its own, but was dependent for the administration of justice upon the courts of Middlesex for 36 years. An act passed by the Territorial Legislature, April 23, 1724, refers to an ordinance of 1723, as inconvenient to the inhabitants of Somerset, both as to the times and places of holding courts, and fixes the courts of Somerset "at the court house" on Thursday after the third Monday in September ; Thursday after the second Monday in December ; Thursday after the fourth Monday in February, and Thursday after the fourth Monday in May. Field's Prov. Courts, 7-11.

The court house referred to in the above act was built at Six Mile Run, a short distance east of the church ; a few stones, part of its foundation, are said to be still visible and point out the spot. Tradition furnishes no idea of the character or form of the building. A single precept, dated April 3d 1729, the second year of the reign of George II, directed to the coroner of the county and commanding him to cause to be made 14£ 14s 4 pence of the goods and chattles of Adrian Bennet, Innholder, late of the County of Somerset, recovered against him by reason of a certain trespass upon the case as adjudicated by Daniel Hollingshead, Judge and Justice of the county. We give this remnant of olden times, as a curiosity :

"NEW JERSEY } ss *George the Second, by the Grace of*
SOMERSET } *God of Great Brittain, France and Ireland, King Defender of the faith, &c.*

To the Coroner of the County of Somerset Greeting : We Command you, that you of the Goods and Chattles of Adrain Bennet, Late of the County of Somerset, Innholder In Your Bailiwick, You cause to be made fourteen pounds,

fourteen shillings and fourpence. Wh. Daniel Hollingshead the Judge and Justice of our County Court for holding of pleas for the County of Somerset In the Sd Court Recovered against him the said Adrian Bennet by Reason of a Certain Trespass upon the Case Lately Done to him the Sd Hollingshead, &c, &c.

Witness Thomas Leonard, Esq., Judge of our Sd Court at ye house aforesaid. ye third Day of April in ye Second year of our Reign.

WILL HOLLIGSHEAD, Cl.

Vera Copia.

FRANCIS HARRISON, Coroner.

This house with the Jail belonging to it was accidentally destroyed by fire in 1737, and by an act of the Legislature dated the same year, another court house was directed to be built at Millstone. This house stood until 1779, when it was also burnt, October 27 by the Queen's Rangers under command of Lieutenant Colonel Simcoe, together with the first Church of Raritan. After this catastrophe the courts were removed to Somerville, and were held at first in a small building known as the "Court Martial House," standing on Mount Pleasant east of our village; then in a log house occupying part of the ground on which Dr. Wilson's house and premises now stand. The present court house was built in 1798.

As regards the administration of justice—Courts were provided for in the Concessions of Berkley and Carteret, and the power of originating them and defining their jurisdiction was given to the General Assembly. This body met for the first time at Elizabeth in 1668. It held however only two sessions of four days each, passed a very few acts, and then on account of the unsettled state of public opinion adjourned, and seven years elapsed before another Assembly convened. It is therefore only in 1675 that courts were really established in East New Jersey. However, in Woodbridge and Bergen, Courts really existed as early as 1668, and in Monmouth in 1667. It seems to have been by common consent, under Proprietary Concessions.

When the assembly met in 1675, the first act passed related to the establishment of courts of justice. It provi-

ded first for a monthly court for the trial of small causes under 40 shillings. This court was to be held on the first Wednesday of every month, in each township, by two or three persons chosen by the people, one of whom must be a Justice of the Peace. Second, there were to be county courts to be held twice a year in each county, and the act provided at the same time for four counties, Bergen one, Elizabeth and Newark a second, Woodbrige and Piscataway a third, and the two towns of Navesink a fourth, making the first counties to be Bergen, Essex, Middlesex and Monmouth. In these courts all actionable causes were tried and there was no appeal under the sum of £20 "except to the bench or court of chancery." By "the bench" was meant what was called the "court of assize"—a court provided to be held once a year at Woodbridge, or where the Governor and council appointed. It was, in other words, "the Supreme Court" and appeals could be made to the Governor and Council in certain cases.

These courts were modified from time to time as circumstances seemed to require and in 1682 the four original counties were divided into townships. We give the original Letter Patent from George II, for the formation of Bridgewater Township. Whether any of the others are in existence is doubtful

Sig Provincie Nostrae. Novu Cesorea in America.

GEORGE the Second by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland. King, Defender of the faith &c TO ALL to whom these presents shall come GREETING. Know that we of our Especial Grace Certain knowledge and Mere Motion Have Given and Granted, and by these presents do give and Grant for us our heirs and Successors to the Townships of the Southermost part of the Northern Precinct of our County of Somerset in our Province of New Jersey within the following boundaries (to wit) BEGINNING at the Mouth of a Bound Brook where it Emties into Rariton, thence up the said Bound Brook to the Mouth of Green Brook thence up the said Brook to the King's Road at Lawrence Ruth's Mill; thence Northerly up the said Road to the Top of the Second Mountain; thence

Westerly along the Top of the said Mountain to the Gap by Jacob Brewers; thence down the said Gap to Chamber's Brook by McDonald's Mill; thence down the said Brook to the North Branch; thence up the said Branch to Laomatong; then up said Laomatong to the Division line between East and West Jersey; thence along said Line to the South Branch of Rariton River; thence up said Branch to the Mouth of the North Branch of said River; thence down said Rariton to the Place where it Began, To be and remain a Perpetual Township and Community, in Word and in Deed to be Called and known by the Name of the Township of Bridgewater. AND WE FURTHER GRANT to the Inhabitants of the township aforesaid and their Successors and to Choose annually a Constable, Overseers of the Poor and Overseers of the Highways for the Township aforesaid and to Enjoy all the Privileges, Rights, Liberties and Immunities that any other Township, in our said Province, do or may of Right enjoy and the said Inhabitants are hereby Constituted and appointed a Township by the Name aforesaid.—To HAVE HOLD AND ENJOY the privileges aforesaid to them and their Successors forever. IN TESTIMONY whereof we have Caused these our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of our said Province of New Jersey to be hereunto affixed. WITNESS Our Trusty and well beloved Jonathan Belcher, Esqr : Our Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over His Majesties Province of Nova Ceserea or New Jersey and Territories thereon Depending in America, Chancellor and Vice Admiral in the Same &c. at our City of Burlington in our said Province the fourth day of April in the twenty second Year of our Reign. Anno Dom MDCCXLIX ;

Read.

Let the Great Seal of the Province of New Jersey be affixed to the within Letters Patent.

To the Secretary of the Province of New Jersey } J. BELCHER.

The early laws found upon the statute book may be characterized as judicious and liberal. Liberty of conscience was secured, the desecration of the Sabbath forbid-

den rioting, drunkenness and debauchery were severely punished, arson, murder, night walking, false witness, selling liquor to the savages, burglary, beggary are all condemned with penalties ; and everything done which appeared to the law makers to be necessary to secure integrity, good order, morality, and a prosperous and happy state of society.

We may indeed refer with pride to several enactments on the subject of schools and education at an early day, evincing a very liberal spirit and a high appreciation of learning, by no means common in that age and even in better ordered communities. In 1693 the following ordinance was passed : "Whereas the cultivation of learning and good manners, tends greatly to the good and benefit of mankind, which hath hitherto been much neglected within this Province, be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Council and Deputies in General Assembly now met and assembled, and by the authority of the same that the inhabitants of any town within this Province, shall and may, by a warrant from a Justice of Peace of that county, when they think fit and convenient, meet together and make choice of three or more men of the said town, to make a rate for the salary and maintaining of a schoolmaster within the said town for so long time as they think fit ; and the consent and agreement of the major part of the inhabitants of the said town shall bind and oblige the remaining part of the inhabitants of the said town, to satisfy and pay their shares and proportion of the said rate ; and in case of refusal or non payment, distress to be made upon the goods and chattles of such person or persons, so refusing or not paying, by the constable of the said town, by virtue of a warrant from a Justice of the Peace of that county, and the distress so taken, to be sold at a public vendue, and the overplus, if any be, after the payment of the said rate and charges, to be returned to the owner." Leaming and Spicer's Laws, page 328.

Two years later, in 1695, it is enacted that three men be chosen year by year, and every year, in each respective town, to appoint and agree with a schoolmaster ; and the three men so chosen to have power to nominate and appoint the most convenient place and places where the

school shall be kept from time to time, that as near as may be, the whole inhabitants may have the benefit thereof.

In the charter of Woodbridge, June 1, 1669, it is provided that 200 acres of land should be laid out for the minister, and 100 for the maintainance of a free school.

There was a public school in Newark as early as 1676, but the teacher's labors were confined to the children and servants of those who had subscribed for its maintainance

Justice has always been fairly administered in Somerset County, and the laws vigorously enforced by the punishment of crime. Perhaps it is owing to this fact, that so few henious and capital offenses have been committed within its bounds. It is certainly remarkable that in our county during the 182 years of its existence, there have been but three persons publicly executed, and these were all nearly at the same time, and soon after the Revolution. We happen to have been privileged with an inspection of the "minutes" of the trial in one of these cases, in the Docket of Jacob Van Ostrand Esq., a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Somerset. We present it as a curiosity, and also as being characteristic of the mode of proceeding in criminal cases, in earlier days It bears date Dec. 18, 1769, and is entitled an action in regard to J. Castner's Harry, and Jeronemous Van Nest complainant, for breaking his negro Jupiter's head. Harry confessed that he had hit him with a stand block, a foot square, weighing 5 or 6 pounds. Harry told Rynier Van Nest that he had killed Jupiter ; wherefore I ordered him to be put in jail, Dec. 22, 1669. Jacob Van Ostrand having associated with himself two Justices of the Peace, Mr. Van Horne, and Benjamin Morgan, and 5 Freeholders, viz : William Crook, John Vroom, John Baptist Dumont, Samuel Staats Coejeman, and Matthew Ten Eyck, Sen ; and several witnesses being examined, after having been duly sworn the three Justices and the Freeholders found him guilty of murder and ordered him to be executed on the 31 of December. Singular as such a proceeding now appears, it was in due form of law, and in full accordance with an act passed in 1714. It applied to murders and other offenses ; and the penalty was to be adjudged ac-

cording to the enormity of the crime in the judgment of the three Justices and five Freeholders. See Nevilles laws vol. 1 page 19. There was more form in this than the Regulators observe, and a little more time given, but certainly justice was sufficiently stern and speedy.

Again in 1788, there were two public executions in Somerset county ; both slaves and both for setting fire to an outbuilding. Sept. 19 Sam the elder, and Sam the younger slaves of Richard McDonald were indicted and tried, and in October the same year Dine, belonging to Peter Dumont of Bridgewater. One of the negroes was respited—the other was hung in company with Dine on Gallows Hill, north of Somerville.

Two soldiers also were hung on Mount Pleasant during one of the winters when there was an encampment of part of Washington's army in Somerset. We give the account from Thatcher's military Journal, who was present in the camp and an eye witness of what he relates. The location of the camp was on the slope to the north east from Mount Pleasant. There was also a cantonment on the south side of the residence of Henry H. Garretson, where Wayne's Corps was stationed and went from this point in June to storm and take Stony Point. The ground near Mount Pleasant was a dense forest and the destruction of timber must have been extensive. But let us hear Dr. Thatcher.

"Feb. 1779, having continued to live under the cover of canvass tents most of the winter, we have suffered extensively from exposure to colds, our soldiers have been employed six or eight weeks in constructing log huts which at length are complete, and both officers and soldiers are under comfortable covering for the remainder of the winter. Log houses are constructed with trunks of trees, cut into various lengths according to the size intended ; and are firmly connected by notches cut at their extremities in the manner of dovetailing. The vacancies between the logs are filled with plastering consisting of mud and clay. The roof is formed of smaller pieces of timber and covered with hewn slabs. The chimney situated at one end of the house is made of similar but smaller timbers ; and both the inner and outside are covered with clay plaster to de-

fend the wood against the fire. The doors and windows are formed by sawing away a part of the logs of a proper size, and move on wooden hinges. In this manner have our soldiers without nails and almost without tools, except the axe and saw, provided for their officers and themselves convenient and comfortable quarters with little or no expense to the public. The huts are arranged in straight lines, forming a regular uniform compact village. The officers huts are situated in front of the line according to their rank—the kitchen in the rear is similar in form to tent encampment. The ground for a considerable distance in front of the soldier's line of huts is cleared of wood and rubbish, and is every morning swept clean for the purpose of a parade ground, and roll call of the respective regiments. The officer's huts are generally divided into two apartments, and are occupied by three or four officers, who compose one mess. Those for the soldiers have but one room, and contain ten or twelve men with their cabins placed one above the other against the wall and filled with straw, and one blanket for each man. I now occupy a hut with our field officers Col. Gibson Col. Brent and Maj. Merriweather." The description will apply equally to the three encampments ; at which of them Thatcher lived is not determined ; probably at Mount Pleasant. He proceeds under date of April 20 to say :

"Five soldiers were conducted to the gallows, according to their sentences for the crimes of desertion and robbing the inhabitants. A detachment of troops and a concourse of people formed a circle around the gallows, and the criminals were brought in a cart sitting on their coffins, with halters around their necks. While in this awful situation, trembling on the verge of eternity, three of them received a pardon from the commander-in-chief, who is always tenderly disposed to spare the lives of his soldiers. They acknowledged the justice of their sentence, and expressed their warmest thanksgiving and gratitude for their merciful pardon. The two others were obliged to submit to their fate, one of them was accompanied to the fatal spot by an affectionate and sympathizing brother, which rendered the scene uncommonly distressing, and forced tears of com-

passion from the eyes of numerous spectators. They repeatedly embraced and kissed each other, with all the fervor of brotherly love, and would not be separated till the executioner was obliged to perform his duty; when with a flood of tears and mournful lamentations, they bade each other an eternal adieu—the criminal trembling under the horrors of an untimely and disgraceful death, and the brother overwhelmed with sorrow and anguish for one whom he held most dear."

Since these scenes were enacted the gallows has not been seen within the bounds of Somerset. It is now a hundred years, and amid all the excitement of interest and sin, all the crimes committed under their influence, murder has not been proved against any one of its citizens, in such a form as to necessitate the punishment of it by a public execution. May it long continue to be so, to the distinguished honor of its citizens.

CHAPTER V.

SOME OF THE MEN OF SOMERSET.

In attempting to give a notice of some of the prominent men of the County of Somerset, we begin with those who held its lands in the first instance. We have noticed already some of them, but think it proper to append the following, viz:

Thomas Codrington was Sheriff in New York City from 1691, to 1692. He came and resided on his lands along Middlebrook, probably soon after the latter date. His place was called Rackahacawanna and came into the possession of Alexander Campbell. Daniel Talmage owned it a few years since.

John Delavall was a son of Thomas Delavall, a captain under Col. Nichols when New York was captured in 1664. It seems from some transactions of his that he had been in the city before this time, but immediately after the surrender he took a prominent part in the administration of public affairs. He owned a farm at Harlem as well as a residence in the city, on the south east corner of Broad Street and Exchange Place, embracing an orchard and a large garden. Visiting England in 1669, he had a conference with the Duke of York, who sent by him to the Mayor and Aldermen of the city, a mace of office and a gown to be worn on proper occasions. He died at his residence in 1681, leaving a large estate. His son John Delavall, who married Catharina Van Courtland, was interested in land grants on the Raritan, but continued to reside in the city. How long is not ascertained, but in a list of the inhabitants of New York in 1703, his name is not found, nor does it appear in subsequent times. He had several sisters who married men of prominence in that day.

Gabriel Minvielle, merchant, was Mayor of the City of

New York in 1684, Alderman in 1675, and a member of the Colonial Council under Governors Sloughter, Ingoldsand Fletcher. He was a Frenchman by descent, but lived in early life in Amsterdam, Holland. In the year 1669 he established himself as a merchant, in New Amsterdam (New York) and carried on an extensive foreign trade. He married Susannah, a daughter of John Lawrence, a wealthy merchant of the city, and fixed his residence on the west side of Broadway in a fine mansion near the Bowling Green. Mr. Minvielle died in 1702, leaving no children and the name consequently became extinct. He had been a resident of the city for some twelve years, when he became interested in lands on the Raritan. In 1703 there were three families in the city of New York bearing the name of Minvielle, viz : Peter Minvielle having a family consisting of one male, one female and one negress ; Mrs. Minvielle, probably the wife of Gabriel, who had died the previous year, one female, one child, two negresses ; and David Minvielle having in his family one male two females one child, one negro and one negress. He is recorded in 1674, after the final surrender of the city to the English, as being worth an estate of $15,000, a large estate for that day; there being only three persons, viz : Jacob, Leister, and William Delavall, worth $30,000 each, and Samuel Wilson $20,000—estimated higher than he was.

Richard Hall, was the son of Thomas Hall, who died in the city of New York 1670. Mr. Hall's father was an Englishman by birth, but having joined with others from New England in an attempt upon the Dutch Colony at the mouth of Delaware River, was taken prisoner and sent to New York. He was treated with leniency by the authorities, and finally obtained the rights of citizenship. In 1639, with a partner, he attempted to locate a tobacco plantation at "Deutel bay," Turtle bay on the East River. In 1654 he purchased property on a hill near the present Beekman street, and erected a house. His heirs sold it after his death to William Beekman. Of Richard Hall we know only his being a joint owner of that splendid tract of land west of Middlebrook The name is respectable, and numerous in Somerset County at the present time.

Peter Sonmans was a native of Holland, a man of activity and energy, educated at the University of Leyden. He held important offices under the Prince of Orange after he became Wm. III King of England, and most probably accompanied him when he went to take possession of the throne. He was Surveyor General of New Jersey for four years, a member of the Council, a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and represented the County of Bergen in the House of Assembly. He was a Churchman by profession, but gave land to build the Presbyterian Church at Hopewell, and a Dutch Church at Harlingen. He owned land in Somerset County, but never resided within its limits. His father, Aaent Sonmans, was one of the original Proprietors of East Jersey. His residence was in Bergen County. His reputation is not spoken of as being very good.

Gawen Lawrie was originally a merchant in London, and from his name seems to have been of Scotch extraction. He became at first interested in the affairs of New Jersey by being appointed in connection with Wm. Penn and Nicholas Lucas, one of the Trustees of Edward Byllinge, one of the original proprietors of West Jersey. When the Duke of York confirmed the sale of the Province March 14, 1682, to the twenty four Proprietors, by giving them a new grant with increased and more full privileges, Lawrie is named as one of them. When Governor Rudyard left the Province at the close of the year 1685, Gawen Lawrie was appointed in his place as Deputy of Barclay. He is represented as possessing qualifications well fitted for the place ; intelligence, activity, energy and business habits being made conspicuous in his management of affairs. He was commissioned a Gov. in July, 1683 and arrived in the Province, in the beginning of the following year. He brought with him a new code of laws, or as they are called "Fundamental Constitutions," deemed by the framers as being far superior to the Concessions of Berkley and Carteret, but it does not seem as if this code was ever enforced. He was dismissed in 1686. The dissatisfaction arose probably from his having appropriated to his own benefit a tract of land on the Raritan, said to be superior to any

essentially injured by the winter quarters of a division of our army being fixed on his possessions, like a good citizen he submitted without repining to suffer as an individual, to promote the public good. His benevolence and hospitality were not confined to the circle of his friends and acquaintances. His doors were ever open to the friendless stranger—his house afforded a resting place and a cheerful welcome to the weary traveller. The blessings of the poor and needy, the widow and the orphan, daily ascended to heaven in his behalf. Providence blessed him with a good constitution, and he met the gradual approaches of death with that composure and resignation which proceeds from the consciousness of a religious life, and a well grounded hope of the divine acceptance. The general sorrow of the numerous assembly which attended the funeral on the Sunday following, testified their sense of his merit and their loss."

Mr. Van Veghten resided on the banks of the Raritan near what is now called the old bridge, The American army was quartered on Mr. Van Veghten's land, in the winter of 1778 and 1779. Washington's general orders to the troops were published in the New Jersey Gazette, February 17, 1779, but were really given at an early date. The location of the encampment has already been indicated. It was a valuable piece of timber land, which was almost entirely destroyed as fuel and logs for the soldiers huts ; and there is no evidence that any compensation was ever made. During the same winter Gen. Washington and Mrs. Washington lived in the parlor of Caleb Miller's house, then just newly finished to receive them. Here Washington planned and arraigned all the details of General Sullivan's expedition against the Indian's in western New York. With the reverance due to such a circumstance, that parlor has not been changed in the least since the Father of his country lived and slept in it, and it ought to remain as it is, until time effects its demolition. Our veneration for the past is too short either for our own credit or the benefit of future times.

Hendrick Fisher was born the year 1697, in the Palatinate, and emigrated to this country as a young man. He

was received into the church in 1721 and soon appointed a Deacon, then an Elder, and continued an ardent friend of F. J. Frelinghuysen until his death, A mechanic by trade, he was yet a man of more than ordinary intelligence and capacity for business. He was almost constant in his attendance with him in the Ecclesiastical conventions. The first Convention of the Churches of the Coetas or liberal party in the Dutch Church which met in New York in 1738, recognized him as the Elder from Raritan. On the adoption of the plan of union in 1771 he was again present, and his name appears on more than one of the important committees. He exerted an important influence in bringing about union in the church. He was one of Mr. Frelinghuysen's Helpers and acted as a Catechist and Lay Preacher. Some of his sermons were published, and are said to have been rich in doctrine and in their illustration of spiritual christianity.

In civil life he was one of the most influential men of his day. When the Revolution opened he was a member of the Assembly of New Jersey from Somerset County, and stood up firmly on the patriot side. He represented the County often afterwards, and never flinched from active duty whenever or in whatever form he encountered it. In the Provincial Congress of New Jersey which assembled at Trenton 1775, he was elected President His opening address is said to have been most forcible in setting forth the grievances of the Colonies. He was chairman of the Committee of Safety which had really wide extended executive powers when Congress was not in session. He served also in other affairs of delicacy and trust.

His firm and decided course made him many enemies among the opponents of the war, and for fear of them he generally went armed, especially on his various journeys. His courage no one doubted any more than they did his moral integrity or the decided character of his Christianity.

He resided below Bound Brook on the south side of the river, and the homestead is now owned by Abraham I. Brokaw. In process of time it was bought by Captain McCrea who devised it to his niece Maria, the wife of Wm. Van Duyn. He represented the county of Somerset in the

Assembly at Perth Amboy in 1772, and also in 1775 in company with John Royce. This Assembly took part in the opening scenes of the Revolution, the end of which he was not permitted to see—since he died four years afterwards. His remains rest in a family graveyard on his farm. In a dense thicket overgrown with thorns and small trees, stands a plain brown upright slab, bearing the following inscription : "In memory of Hendrick Fisher who departed this life August 16th, 1779 in the 82nd year of his age."

Col. John Mehelm came from Neshamany Penns, and at first engaged in Merchantile and Milling business at New Bromley (Stillwell's Mills) near White House. He was appointed Surrogate of Hunterdon and Somerset and resided in Pluckamin—was a member of the first Provincial Congress. and of the Council of Safety—was present when Gov. Franklin was arrested and superceded, and one of the commissioners appointed to sell the estate of Lord Sterling. Wm. McEowen married his daughter, and was during the war, Musician and Quartermaster. He represented Somerset County several terms as Member of Assembly. Col. Mehelm was in his day a man of character and influence, and has left a memory which is an honor to his posterity.

We must not fail to mention among those who have been prominent in public life the name of John Hardenburgh. He was the son of the Rev. Dr. Hardenburgh, pastor of the church of Raritan, and Jeffvrow Hardenburgh, a woman of eminent piety. He is commonly spoken of by the aged, who still remember him, as Sheriff Hardenburgh, but his holding that office was a great misfortune to himself, and to the friends who became his sureties. He was a gentleman of popular address and manners, and lived a free and generous life, not regarding always the expenses in which indulgence involved him. He married Ann Wallace, from Philadelphia, and lived in the old house which was removed to make room for the present mansion of Dumont Frelinghuysen, Esq. He died in 1738, and his remains were deposited by the side of his wife on the banks of the meadows east of the old Parsonage in which his fath-

er had resided. His wife died before him. We give their epitaphs: "In memory of Ann, wife of John Hardenburgh, who departed this life November 26th, 1793, aged 35 years and 6 months" "In memory of John Hardenburgh, Esq., who departed this life July 23, 1798, aged 39 years, 3 months and 12 days."

In the house now occupied by John Herbert, at the Mills, near Middlebrook, resided during the Revolution, a merchant from New York by the name of Philip Van Horn; and from him it was known as "Phil's Hill." His house was resorted to by the officers of the American army, and his daughters, one or more, married them. Col Simco called at the house on his way to Van Veghten's bridge and Millstone, when the church of Raritan was burnt, expecting to find Col. Moyland there who was we believe, a son-in law. The Duke DeChastellaux, Major-General of the French army under Rochambeau, on his way from Morristown to Trenton, dined with Mr. Van Horn, and gives an amusing account of one daughter, an officer's wife, and another the younger, who was flirting with a Lieutenant during the dinner. We have no knowledge of what became of the family, except that the property was sold after the war, and they must have died or moved away.

William Mercer lived above Millstone and was a man of high character. He owned a mill and a store, and accumulated wealth. His descendants reside at the present time in Newark and its vicinity. Theodore Frelinghuysen married his daughter Charlotte, and Dr. Stryker, of Somerville, another. Dr. Stryker, besides serving in the legislative council. was a physician of eminence and large practice; an earnest christian, living to the age of nearly ninety years, and going down to his rest full of honor and in perfect peace.

At Weston lived J. M. Bayard, owner of the mills, a citizen of influence in his day; a christian man and an example of every good word and work. He assisted at the first meeting called to form the Somerset County Bible Society, and was active wherever the good order of society was concerned.

Rev. Balthazar Bayard, before the revocation of the edict

of Nantes, was driven from France by the policy of Cardinal Richliew, and emigrated to Holland the only place where he could enjoy liberty of conscience. There his only daughter, Judith, married Petrus Stuyvesant, the last of the Dutch Governors of New Amersterdam. She prevailed with the Governor to persuade her three brothers to accompany them to this country. On their arrival in 1647, James the youngest of the three purchased a manor in Cecil County, Maryland. Prior to leaving Holland, he had married Blandinia Conde. They had four children. The youngest son named James inherited the manor on the death of his parents. He married Miss Ashton. Two sons were born to them, John and James Ashton—John being the oldest in age by thirty minutes.

John Bayard was born August 11th 1738, in the Maryland Manor House. His father dying intestate he became entitled by law to the whole inheritance, but on reaching manhood, he conveyed to his brother one half the real estate. In early life he became a communicant of the Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, under the pastoral care of the Rev. Gilbert Tennent. At the commencement of the Revolutionary war he took an active part in the Patriot cause. At the head of the 2d Batallion of the Philadelphia troops he marched to the assistance of Washington and was present at the Battle of Trenton. He was a member of the Council of Safety, and for many years Speaker of the House of Representatives. In 1785 he was elected to Congress. Three years subsequently, he removed to New Brunswick, where he was Mayor of the City, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and an Elder of the Presbyterian Church. He died there January, 1806.

We have said that Peter Dumont was living on the Raritan in the beginning of 1699. He was a large landholder on the south side of the raritan, and the ancestors of those who have since borne that honorable name. He was born April 18th, 1679, and was the son of Walran Dumont and Gertie, his wife. He married first Fametie Van Middlesworth, who died December 25th, 1706; second, Catelyntie Rappleyea, who died January 30th, 1709; and thirdly Janetie Veghte. Her son John, born April 13th, 1719.

was the father of Peter B. Dumont, of our times. The Dumont family are of French extraction. Isaac Dumont, of Bostanquet, held a Fief by Knights service in the beautiful Pays de Caux, in Normandy. A branch emigrated to Holland in the days of persecution. They were early of protestant principles ; and Isaac Dumont served in the army of William when he came to England as others of the name had done before him in armies of the Prince of Orange.

Among the Raritan families the Veghte's have long been influential and respectable. The common ancestors were two brothers, Hendrick and Class Arense Veghte, who came to New Netherlands in 1660, and went to reside on Long Island, at Gowanus. Hendrick, a son of one of the emigrants, built a house of bricks imported from Holland, with a tile roof, which bears the date 1639. He had two sons, Rynier and Hendrick. Rynier settled on the north side of the Raritan river, on the farm owned afterwards and occupied by John A. Staats. This Rynier left one son named Henry, who married the daughter of John Van Middlesworth, who lived opposite on the south side of the river. Henry sold his tract on the Raritan and purchased a large tract of land in Roycefield, in the Millstone neighborhood, afterwards owned and occupied by Capt John Wyckoff. He and his wife died young, leaving three children—one son named Rynier, inherited his grandfathers estate on the Raritan, lived there for many years, and died in February 1833, in his 80th year. This Ryneier left two sons—Henry who was the father of R. H. Veghte, now living on the homestead farm, and also of Benjamin T., John and Henry Veghte——and Rynier, who left one son John V. Veghte, who resides now on the farm where his father died in 1871, aged 83 years.

The name of Vroom is found early on the records of the church. Court Vroom seems to have been the first of the name residing on the Raritan. Col. Peter D. Vroom, of revolutionary days, was a prominent citizen of Somerset County in his time. He was born Jan. 27th, 1745, O. S., two miles from Raritan Landing. Early in life he lived in New York, whence he came to reside on the Raritan, near the junction of the North and South Branches. The home-

stead is now owned by Saxton Wyckoff. He married Elsie Bogart, and died on this Plantation. He was one of the few individuals who raised the first military company in the beginning of the revolutionary war, in which he served as lieutenant and captain, and was appointed major of the Somerset battalion by joint Meeting in 1777; and afterwards a lieutenant-colonel. He led a company at the battle of Germantown and was in the service during the war. During his life he occupied almost every office of trust in the county. At the close of the revolution, he was made High Sheriff, and then Clerk of the Pleas, afterwards a Justice of the Peace, a Member of Assembly in 1791 and several succeeding years—member of council for 1799 to 1804, and a long time Presiding Judge of the court, afterward an elder in the church; and always a leading counsellor. He enjoyed an unblemished reputation, and died in November 1831, in the 87th year of his age—having, in his time, filled as large a space in public life as any of the prominent men of his day in Somerset County. He was the father of the late Gov. P. D. Vroom.

William Churchill Houston was born in South Carolina, about the year 1746. His father was a planter, a man of distinction, and William lived at home until after his majority. With very limited means he made his way to Princeton and entered the Freshman Class in the college, and graduated with high honor in 1768. Soon after his graduation he was appointed a tutor, and two years after was elected Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, being the first occupant of that chair in the institution. He resigned in 1783 and was succeeded by Ashbel Green, afterwards president of the college. While connected with the college, Mr. H. found time to study law, and in April 1781, was admitted to the bar of New Jersey. During the time that he occupied the chair of Professor he served one session in the legislature, viz: 1778. His associates were Roelif Sebring and David Kirkpatrick, of Somerset. In the Assembly 1781, Edward Bunn was chosen to fill his place. From 1782 to 1785 he was Receiver of Continental Taxes, and in September 1786, was appointed Clerk of the Supreme Court, and was succeeded in the office by Gov.

Howell. in 1788. In May, 1782, he was elected a member of the Congress of the Confederation, and was four times re elected to the same position. He was a delegate from New Jersey, at the assembling of Commissioners from the States, at Annapolis, in 1786, and signed the report and address issued by that body. In November 1787, he was appointed a delegate from New Jersey to the Convention which met at Philadelphia and framed the Constitution of the United States. "But I can not discover that he ever took his seat in that body, being most probably prevented from doing so, by his rapidly declining health." He died at Philadelphia, in 1795, while on a journey to the South —and was there interred. He was a learned and profound lawyer, and distinguished in the halls of science and legislation.

Mr. H., while in Princeton, must have lived as Dr. Witherspoon did, on the Somerset side of the street, which was the common boundary between this county and Middlesex.

David Kirkpatrick of Mine Brook, the father of Chief Justice Kirkpatrick, was entirely a Somerset man, though born in Scotland. He emigrated to New Jersey with his father, Alexander Kirkpatrick, when 12 years of age, in 1736, landing at New Castle, Del., after a stormy passage, during which their provisions were almost entirely consumed and the passengers in danger of starvation. Wandering up from Delaware they finally reached Bound Brook, and went on over the mountains on foot by an Indian path. On their way they encountered "a land-turtle, sticking up his head and hissing fearfully." They had heard of rattlesnakes, and were sure this terrible monster must be one of them; so turning cautiously aside, they left his "tortleship" in full possession of his quarters, and went on their way giving him a wide berth. Coming to a spring of water on the south side of Mine Brook or Round Mountain, they rested; and fancying the outlook of the place, settled and built a log house. David Kirkpatrick, the subject of our sketch, was born at "Wattiesneach," Dumfrieshire, Scotland, February 17, 1724, and was a plain but earnest man living four score years and ten to see and enter upon his

ninety first year. He was often a member of the New Jersey Legislature ; and it is pleasantly said of him, that on going to Trenton, he usually commenced his journey on horseback ; but soon dismounted and walked, leading the animal all the way to Trenton. He was always a public spirited, earnest christian man ; a man with the temper of the Scotch worthies largely developed in his character, and left posterity who have borne honorable names among the honorable men of Somerset. His descendants have in many ways proved themselves worthy of their sire, at the bar, in the pulpit, and in many other branches of public life. A plain, simple-hearted almost uneducated man, he obtained an extensive influence in his day and died full of years and honors.

Gen. Frederick Frelinghuysen, the only son of Rev. John Frelinghuysen and Dinah Van Burgh, of Amsterdam, Holland. He was born in Somerville, April 13th, 1753, and died on April 13th, 1804, aged fifty-one years exactly. He entered public life early, and in 1775 when only 22 years of age, was sent to the Continental Congress. He served in his place for two years and resigned in 1777, on account of the expense attending it, and the claims upon him from the exigencies of his own private affairs. His letter, which has been preserved and published, is highly honorable to his patriotism and his sense of duty. He was, at first, a Captain of a Volunteer Artillery company for one year on the opening of the revolution. He fought in the battles of the Assinpink, and of Monmouth; and generally during the war he was active as a colonel of the militia of his native county. After receiving repeated evidences of the confidence of the public, he was in 1793 elected to the United States Senate. He served in his place until domestic bereavements and the claims of his own affairs obliged him again to resign in 1796. In the Western expedition, or the "Whiskey War," he served as a major-general, commanding the troops from New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He enjoyed a large share of public confidence and was one of the prominent men of his time, Somerset has long cherished his memory with pride.

Earlier in public life than Frelinghuysen, was William

Paterson, the second governor of New Jersey, after Independence. He is called one of the most talented men of his day. We have not ascertained the place of his birth, but his father resided at Princeton, and he graduated from the college in 1763. Though mostly a resident of New Brunswick, he lived for several years on the Raritan, on what is called the "Paterson Farm." Here he attended to the business of his plantation, and at the same time engaged in the practice of the law. In the little office which stood aside from his dwelling and near the road side, he transacted his business and attended to the instruction of several students, of whom we shall make mention in another connection as a matter of interest and pride. He was appointed in 1776 a Judge of the Supreme Court of New Jersey, and elected Governor of the State in 1790, as a successor of William Livingston. Previous to this he had been a member of the convention to frame the U. S. Constitution and Senator of the First Congress. He was at the time of his death, 1806, a Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States. New Jersey claims his memory as one of her most honored and cherished possessions, and the County of Somerset, enrolls him with pleasure among her great men. His character is singularly pure, unstained even by one blot. He was evidently a most honest, honorable upright man.

Somerset has a right to claim as one of her prominent men William Alexander, best known as "Lord Sterling," a major-general in the armies of the revolution. He was a son of James Alexander, surveyor general of New Jersey and born in New York City, 1726. His father, James Alexander, fled from Scotland, 1716, having been implicated in the outbreak in favor of the Stewarts in that year. His mother was the widow David Provost, facetiously called "Ready Money" Provost. He spent several years of his life near Baskingridge, where he built a splendid mansion, had a park filled with deer, and lived in baronial style. He joined the army in his youth, and was aide-camp to Gen. Sherley in the French and Indian war. He claimed the Earldom of Sterling, in Scotland, and went to England to prosecute his claims, but failed in obtaining

the acknowledgment of what was considered his just rights, but his friends usually gave him by way of compliment the title. He acted a conspicuous part during the war of the revolution, and stood high in the confidence of Washington. He distinguished himself at the Battle of Long Island, but was taken prisoner; and again at Germantown and Monmouth. On Long Island his bravery was the means of saving a large part of the American army. At Germantown his division, with the brigades of Nash and Maxwell, formed a corps of reserve; and at Monmouth he commanded the left wing of the army and met the fiercest onset of Sir Henry Clinton, and aided essentially in securing the victory achieved by our arms on that bloody field. His patriotism was ardent and steady, inspired largely by his love for the commander-in-chief and the noble cause for which he fought. Before the revolution he served in the provincial council several years, His wife was a sister of Gov. Wm. Livingstone, of New Jersey. He died at Albany, January 15th, 1783, aged 57 years, leaving behind him the reputation of a brave, skillful and intrepid commander, and an honorable, honest and pure man. The sacrifice which he made and the efforts he put forth in the cause of Indepennence will embalm his memory in all coming time.

No catalogue of the men of Somerset would be complete which should omit a conspicuous place to Richard Stockton of Princeton. Mr. Stockton graduated at Priceton College at an early day, 1748. Devoting himself to the study of the law, he rose almost immediately to a conspicuous place on account of the superior mental abilities which he displayed, and the unbending integrity of his conduct. He received an appointment to the judicial bench under the provincial administration, and was continued after the adoption of the constitution in 1776. He uniformly discharged the duties of his office with great judgment and integrity, securing for himself the reputation of a clear judgment and unbending uprightness. He was a member of congress at the opening of the revolution, and signed the Declaration of Independence, On account of his having done this his Seat, called "Morven," was ransacked

and spoiled by the British and Hessians in the autumn of 1776, and he himself kept long in exile in Monmouth county. Even his valuable library and papers were destroyed. Mr. Stockton left behind him a very high reputation for talents, scholarship, oratory and statesmanship, and crowned it all, by living the life of a consistent christian. He died on the 1st of March, 1781. He was the father of Richard Stockton, an eminent lawyer and statesman in more recent times, and grandfather of Commodore Stockton.

We cannot omit the name of Dr. John Witherspoon but must refer to his biography for information.

John McPherson Berrian, born in the old mansion at Rocky Hill. He resided principally in the State of Georgia. Held the office of Senator of the U. S. A. and was Attorney General under Gen. Jackson.

James Linn owned a handsome property at Mine Brook. Served in the Legislature in 1777, was elected to Congress in 1798, He gave the casting vote for Thomas Jefferson, in the New Jersey delegation. Was chosen Secretary of State in 1809, and died in Trenton 1820.

Henry Southard; Samuel H. Southard, his son; Andrew Kirkpatrick, Chief Justice; Gen. John Frelinghuysen; Richard Stockton; Frederick and Theodore Frelinghuysen, and Peter D. Vroom, and Wm. L. Dayton claim mention as eminent and honorable men, but our space forbids anything more than a mere record of their names. They will, however, live though we shall not embalm them.

CHAPTER VI.

SCENES OF THE REVOLUTION, IN SOMERSET COUNTY.

When Freedom from her mountain height
  Unfurled her standard to the air,
She tore the azure robe of night,
  And set the stars in glory there.
She mingled with its gorgeous dyes
The milky baldric of the skies,
And striped its pure celestial white
With streakings of the morning light;
Then from his mansion in the Sun
She called her Eagle-bearer down,
And gave into his mighty hand,
The symbol of her chosen land.

The causes which operated in effecting the separation of the American colonies from Great Britain, lay as far back as 1763, when Parliament first proposed to draw from them a "revenue" in support of the home government. The popular mind was excited, and there sprang up at once an almost unanimous determination to make resistance to this unjust demand, in all the Colonies. They considered it an unjustifiable, oppressive and unprovoked violation of their "chartered rights and privileges." In the case of New Jersey, there was on record a justifiable reason for such resistance. In the "Concessions and Agreements," an article existed providing that "the Governor and Council are not to impose or suffer to be imposed any tax, custom or subsidy, tollage, assessments or any other duty whatsoever, upon any color or pretense how specious soever, upon the said province or inhabitants thereof, without their consent first had." They considered this agreement between themselves and the Proprietors under whose auspices they and their fathers had settled in the province, so valuable and so

important, that nothing ought to induce them to submit to its infraction! No taxation without representation and consent, became, therefore, a war cry, in this and in all the other Colonies also. Hence, New Jersey sympathized entirely in the opposition raised to Mr. Greenville's tax bill; and when the stamp act bill was passed, March 22, 1765, and the duty on tea was attempted to be levied, she stood firmly to her rights.

When, on motion of the Legislatures of Massachusetts and Rhode Island a Congress was called to meet in New York, on the first Tuesday in October, 1765, she sent Robert Ogden, Hendrick Fisher and Joseph Borden to represent her, and continued her representatives in the subsequent Congresses, until the Declaration of Independence was issued on the 4th of July, 1776. In these Assemblies, besides Hendrick Fisher, we find the names of William Paterson, Frederick Frelinghuysen, John Royce, Peter Schenck Abraham Van Neste, Enos Kelsey, Jonathan D. Sergeant, Archibald Stewart, Edward Dumont, William Maxwell, Ephriam Martin, Cornelius Ver Meule, Ruloff Van Dyke, as representatives from Somerset County, at different times. When the "Provincial Congress," as it was called, met at Burlington, June 10th, 1776, she sent Dr. Hardenburgh to assist in framing a constitution for the State; and when Gov. Franklin was superceded, arrested and confined, and William Livingstone appointed Governor on the 31st of August 1776, she was present by her representatives to assent to and assist in forwarding the good cause.

She had already called out her military when the battle of Lexington was fought, April 19th, 1775; and when that of Bunker Hill, on the 17th of June occurred, she was active in arming for the fight. But fortunately, our State and County continued exempt from the ravages of armies, as well our own, as those of our enemies, until the next year! Clinton and Cornwallis, driven out of Boston, came with their re-inforced troops and landed 35,000 men on Long Island early in June 1776; and on the 20th of August, the battle of Long Island was fought. Then came the abandonment of the city of New York, September 15th, the taking of Fort Washington and Fort

Lee. Nov, 10, and the transfer of both the armies into the State of New Jersey. Our State and county were now at first called upon to realize the bitterness of the contest in which they had engaged ; and henceforth she was, in a measure, the battle ground of the war.

At this point, properly, the military operations of the Revolution, so far as Somerset is concerned, commenced, and we shall endeavor to give them, as far as it is possible, separate from the other actions in the great drama ; hoping in this way to enable the reader to form a distinct idea of her sufferings in the cause of liberty. After the 16th of November, 1776, Washington crossed over the Hackensack and Passaic rivers, and as his troops were being daily diminished by desertion only paused when he had reached the Delaware. Penetrating the design of the enemy, to pass into New Jersey and march to the capture of Philadelphia, Washington had promptly crossed the Hudson with the main body of the American army, after securing some positions on the east bank, between Kings' bridge and the Highlands. He paused at Hackensack in the rear of Fort Lee, where General Lee was in command. Lord Cornwallis also crossed the Hudson at Dobb's Ferry, with all his men, on the 18th, and landing at Closter, a mile and a half from English Neighborhood, proceeded to attack Fort Lee. The garrison made a hasty retreat, and joined Washington at Hackensack, five miles distant. All the baggage and military stores at Fort Lee fell into the hands of the enemy. It was an easy conquest for Cornwallis, and had he followed up this successful beginning with energy there is every probability that he would have captured Washington and his whole army. When Cornwallis approached, he at once commenced a retreat towards the Delaware, hoping to be sufficiently enforced by the New Jersey and Pennsylvania militia to enable him to make a successful stand against the invaders at some intermediate point.

But the late reverses had sorely disappointed the militia as well as the people, and Washington found his army to diminish at every step, rather than augment. By the last of November scarcely 3,000 troops remained under his com-

mand. For three weeks he fled before Cornwallis across the level districts of New Jersey. Newark, New Brunswick, Princeton and Trenton were successively evacuated by the Americans and occupied by the enemy: often the music of the pursued and the pursuers would be heard by each other. Having arrived at Trenton on the 8th of December, Washington and his army crossed the Delaware in boats, which had been pressed into this service by proclamation from all parts of the river. The last one had reached the Pennsylvania shore just as one division of Cornwallis's army, with all the pomp of victors, marched into Trenton. This was about 12 o'clock at night. The main body of the British troops, however, halted about six miles from Trenton. The long agony was at last over ; and the cause of liberty, though surrounded with gloom and discouragement, was not yet quite lost. Washington had hoped to make a stand at New Brunswick, but abandoned the idea as the enemy approached The service of the New Jersey and Maryland brigades expired on the day he arrived there, and no persuasion could induce them to remain, and without them a stand was hopeless.

When Washington commenced this retreat, Gen. Chas. Lee had been left at White Plains, east of the Hudson, with a corps of nearly 3000 men. When at Hackensack, Washington wrote to him, requesting him to hasten to New Jersey, to reinforce him ; but Lee did not see fit to regard this reasonable request. The Commander-in-chief made the order peremptory and positive ; but he still lingered and delayed, and so tardy were his movements that after three weeks he only reached Morristown. It seems he coveted independence of command, and expected by some fortunate juncture of circumstances, to perform a striking and splendid feat of arms, and eclipse his commander in the eyes of the people. How miserably he failed we have now to relate.

On the 13th of December the main body of Lee's troops were at Vealtown, (now Bernardsville,) but Lee himself lodged at Mrs. White's tavern at Baskingridge, two miles distant, having with him only a guard of a few men for his protection. We quote from Wilkinson's Memoirs.—

"Gen. Lee wasted the morning in altercations, with certain militia corps who were of his command, particularly the Connecticut light horse ; one wanted forage, one his horse shod, one his pay and a fourth his provisions, to which the General replied. Your wants are numerous, but you have not mentioned the last ; you want to go home and shall be indulged, for you are no good here. Several of them appeared in large full bottoned perukes and were treated very irreverently.

"The call of the Adjutant General for orders also occupied some of his time, and he did not set down to breakfast before 10 o'clock. Gen. Lee was engaged in answering Gen. Gate's letter, and I had risen from the table and was looking out of an end window, down a lane, about one hundred yards in length, which led to the house from the main road, when I discovered a party of British turn the corner of the avenue in full charge. Startled at this unexpected appearance I exclaimed : "Here, Sir, are the British Cavalry." "Where" asked the General, who had signed the letter on the instant. "Around the house" for they had opened files and encompassed the building. General Lee appeared alarmed and yet collected, and his second observation marked his self possession. "Where is the guard ? d—m the guard ; why don't they fire ?" and after a momentary pause he turned to me and said : "Do Sir, see what has become of the guard ?" The woman of the house at this moment entered the room, and proposed to him to conceal himself in a bed ; which he rejected with evident disgust. I caught up the pistol which lay on the table ; thrust the letter he had been writing in my pocket, and passed into a room at the opposite end of the house, where I had seen the guard in the morning. Here I discovered their arms, but the men were absent. I stepped out of the door, and saw the dragoons chasing them in different directions, and receiving a very uncivil salutation, I returned into the house.

"Too inexperienced, immediately to penetrate the motives of this enterprise, I considered the reconotre accidental, and from the terrific tales spread over the country, of the violence and barbarity of the enemy, I believed it to be

a wanton marauding party, and determined not to die without company. I accordingly sought a position where I could not be approached by more than one person at a time, and with a pistol in each hand awaited the expected search, resolved to shoot the first and second person who might appear, and then appeal to the sword. I did not long remain in this unpleasant situation, but was apprised of the incursion by the very audible declaration. "If the General does not surrender in five minutes, I will set fire to the house," which after a short pause was repeated with a solemn oath ; and within two minutes I heard it proclaimed "here is the General, he has surrendered !" A general shout ensued, the trumpet sounded the re-assembling of the troop, and the unfortunate Lee, mounted on my horse which stood ready at the door, was hurried off in triumph, bare-headed, in his slippers and blanket coat, his collar open, and his shirt very much soiled from several days use."

The capture of Gen. Lee was felt to be a public calamity ; it cast a gloom over the country and excited general sorrow. The matter is explained by later intelligence. It seems that a certain Mr. Muklewraith, an elder in the Presbyterian Church of Mendham, had passed Mrs. White's tavern, and had been told of the presence of Lee there, and while travelling on foot on his private business, was overtaken by Colonel Harcourt and pressed into service as a guide ; but whether Harcourt was only reconnoitering and accidently heard of the place where Gen. Lee had slept, or had followed him up intending to capture him, is not explained. He was taken by way of Bound Brook to New Brunswick and delivered, as a prisoner, to the British commander. At first he was claimed to be a deserter, and treated accordingly, but finally exchanged in May for Gen. Prescott and returned to the army.

Col. Harcourt had no sooner retreated with his prize, than Gen. Wilkinson hastened to the stable and mounting the first horse at hand, hurried to join the main body of the army which he found on the road toward Pluckamin. The command now devolved upon Gen. Sullivan ; and continuing on his march by way of Lamington, Potters-

town and Clinton, he finally crossed the Delaware at Philipsburg, and joined Washington in Pennsylvania.

These, then, are the military movements in Somerset County in 1776; the year when Independence was declared. Washington passed our county on its south-eastern and southern border, along the public road leading by Six Mile Run, and Kingston to Princeton and Trenton; and Lee and Sullivan led another division from Totowa, (now Paterson,) by the Valley of the Passaic to Morristown, Bernardsville, Lamington and Clinton, to Phillipsburg; and the two united on the west side of the Delaware about December 20th, 1776.

New Jersey was thus in December, given up almost entirely into the hands of the enemy; and all tradition unites in averring that their hands were not restrained. Private property was but little respected; no allowance made in favor of non-combattants; and virtue and purity were often brutally outraged.

Cornwallis lingered in New Brunswick during the whole of the succeeding winter, collecting a large depot of stores and forage from the surrounding country for the subsistence of his army. He at first purposed to continue his march to Philadelphia, but finding that Washington had secured all the boats on the river, decided to delay it until the ice should form and enable him to pass his troops over in that way; but before this came he had other work on his hands.

While at Brunswick he issued a proclamation inviting all the inhabitants of the State to come in and take out "Protections," promising exemption for the past and safety in the future; and in the discouraging aspect of the public affairs, the timorous and the doubtful almost universally took advantage of it. The following is a copy of one of these papers:

I do hereby Certify that the Bearer Abraham Sedam, of Middlebush, in the County of Somerset, came and subscribed the declaration specified in a certain Proclamation published at New York, on the 13th day of November last, by the Right Honorable, Lord Howe, and his Excellency General Howe. Whereby he is entitled to the protection

of all Officers and Soldiers, serving in his Majesties' Army in America, both for himself, his family and property, and to pass and repass on his lawful business without molestation.

Given under my hand this 18th day of December, 1776.

C. MAWHOOD. Lt. Col.

The tendency was to weaken and discourage the cause of patriotism greatly. Even some men who had been active until this time, wavered and sought safety in "Protection." It was the darkest hour of the struggle, but fortunately it did not last long.

We close the first year of Independence then with the British troops occupying New Brunswick, and extending their outposts to the Delaware at Trenton. while Washington, with his little army almost completely demoralized, is just saved by a timely retreat to the west side of the river. New Jersey is in the possession of its enemies, except the counties of Sussex, Morris and Hunterdon, and the spirit of the people is being debauched by deceitful offers of protection and peace. The State government had hardly been organized before it was dispersed. War, therefore, not only, but anarchy, threatened the State ! No doubt many wept in secret, and others prayed almost in despondency and total despair ! But the agony, though intense, was brief.

The year in which the Declaration of Independence was made really seemed to close in almost helpless despondency ! Washington had only 2,200 men under his command when he reached the western side of the Delaware on the 8th of December ; and even a part of these waited only to be dismissed, as their term of service had already expired. Indeed, there were scarcely 1000 men upon whom he could depend, until he was joined by Sullivan from Phillipsburgh. The whole State of New Jersey was at the mercy of the British. Sir Wm. Howe took this opportunity to issue a Proclamation offering a full and free pardon to all who would lay down their arms, with full and ample protection, also to those who after doing so consented to take the oath of allegiance to the British crown. The effect of this was to bring great numbers of

the timerous and wavering to desert the cause of Independence The following was issued on Long Island :

Whereas, it is represented that many of the loyal inhabitants of this country have been compelled by the leaders in rebellion, to take up arms against His Majesty's Government. Notice is hereby given to all persons so forced into rebellion, that on delivering themselves up at head quarters of the Army, they will be received as faithful subjects, have permits peaceably to return to their respective dwellings, and meet with full protection for their persons and property. All those who chose to take up arms for the restoration of order and good government within this Island, shall be disposed of in the best manner, and have every encouragement that can be expected.

Given under my hand at Headquarters on Long Island Aug, 23, 1776. Wm. Howe.

By his Excellency's command Robert Makensie, Sec.

The finances of Congress were in disarrangement ; the troops in the field were ill provided for, ill fed and greatly demoralized as the effect of all this. It was in fact the darkest hour of the conflict.

But it did not last long.

On Christmas day in seventy-six,
Our gallant troops with bayonets fixed,
To Trenton marched away.

From the 8th to the evening of the 24th of December nothing had been done, but early on the morning of the 25th, Christmas day, in the midst of a cold sleet, the inhabitants of Trenton were startled by the noise of a sharp conflict in the streets of the town. The result of which was, the capture of the entire corps of Hessians stationed there. Washington himself was there, present in person, aided by Generals Green, Mercer, Sterling, Sullivan and Stevens.

The conflict was brief but decisive. Col. Rall was wounded by a shot fired, it is said, by Col. Frederick Frelinghuysen, and surrendered the troops under his command amounting to 1000 prisoners, with 6 brass field pieces, 1000 stand of arms and 4 flags.

In the evening, Washington, with his men and prisoners returned again to the west side of the Delaware, having lost only four men, two of which were frozen to death. He returned again, however, on the 30th, to find all the British from Bordentown removed to Princeton, except Cornwallis, who, with strong force was waiting for him on the south side of the Assinpink. Here a conflict occurred on the 2d of January, lasting until it became too dark to continue it, neither having obtained any decided advantage, and lighting their fires on opposite sides of the narrow little river. Cornwallis boasted that he would certainly "catch the fox" in the morning, when urged by Sir William Erskine to attack in the evening; but "the fox" was not caught! Leaving his camp fires burning brightly, Washington stole away under the cover of the darkness, and appeared early in the morning at Princeton, where he defeated the British troops stationed there with great slaughter, and sent one regiment flying precipitately back to Trenton; but his victory was saddened by the unfortunate death of General Mercer. Pursuing the other defeated regiments as far as Kingston, he halted, and after consulting with his officers, decided to turn aside and secure his army by leading them to a place of safety. Breaking down the bridge at Kingston, he led his troops on the east side of the Millstone to Rocky Hill, when he crossed again to the west side, and following the course of the river crossed the Raritan at Van Veghten's bridge, and rendevouzed the next day at night-fall, at Pluckamin. The morning of the battle at Princeton was bright and frosty, and the air being calm the canonading was heard as far north-west as New Germantown, and spread consternation far and wide; and when the camp fires gleamed the next evening the 4th of January, on the side of the Pluckamin mountain, the alarm was most intense. Many a horseman, during the night, dashed onward to the point, to ascertain what it portended, and when the news was brought back, that it was Washington, the joy was almost rapturous everywhere.

This hurried march on the 2nd of January, 1777, was the second military movement through Somerset County.

It was made amid the most intense sufferings of the poor soldiers All of them had been without sleep the previous night ; the weather was very cold—they had not had time to supply themselves with even one regular meal, and the march from Kingston, after the battle, was a long and a fatiguing one. Many of them became exhausted and laid down to sleep by the way side. Some of them became exhausted and laid down to sleep by the wayside. Some of the inhabitants along the Millstone supplied them as they passed, with such food as they had prepared ; but the exhaustion of the whole was almost complete, when they rested at last at Pluckamin on the evening of the 4th.

Beside the death of Gen. Mercer the battle of Princeton is memorable on account of another victim. Captain William Leslie, son of the Earl of Levin of Scotland, was wounded in the first on-set, carried to Pluckamin, and died on the porch of the small inn, almost immediately on reaching there. Mr. G. W. P. Custis in his recollections of the life of Washington, gives the following account of this incident of the battle : "It was while the Commander in Chief reined up his horse, where lay the gallant Col. Harshlet mortally wounded, that he perceived some British soldiers supporting a wounded officer, and upon inquiring his name and rank, was answered Capt. Leslie. Dr. Benjamin Rush, who formed a part of the Genl's. suite, earnestly asked "a son of the Earl of Levin?" to which the soldiers replied in the affirmative. The Doctor then addressed the General-in-Chief, "I beg your excellency to permit this wounded officer to be placed under my care, that I may return, in however small a degree, a part of the obligation, I owe to his worthy family for the many kindnesses received at their hands while a student at Edinburgh." The request was granted, but poor Leslie was soon past all surgery. "After receiving all possible kindness in the march, he died, was interred at Pluckamin in the old Lutheran Cemetery, and after the war Dr. Rush placed a monument over his remains, yet in existence. It has the following Inscription :

"In memory of Capt. William Leslie, son of the Earl of Levin, who died January, 1776, after being wounded in the

Battle of Princeton." This monument has been erected by Dr. Benj. Rush, out of respect to his noble family, and in testimony of his exalted worth.

Many years since money was sent from Scotland to build a stone wall in front, and more recently the Presbyterian Church was erected on a part of it.

The following extracts will be of interest to many of our readers :

"Many persons in this country will recall with pleasure the visit to this country last year of the Hon. Roland Leslie Melville, brother of the Earl of Levin and Melville, who some time ago became a partner in London of Mr. McCulloch, ex-Secretary of the United States Treasury. While here Mr. Melville mentioned the fact that one of his "Forbyes," a young British officer, had fallen in America during the Revolutionary war, and that the family had never been able to learn where he was burried. There was tradition that his remains had been deposited in a certain "Trinity" church yard, but that vague description gave them little clue to the spot.

Only the other day an American friend of Mr. Melville, searching our early national history with quite another object, stumbled on the story of his ancestor's death, and finding that he fell at the battle of Princeton, January 3, 1777, pursued the inquiry, and discovered his burial place still well preserved.

As the story throws an agreeable light on the courtesies which mitigated the terrors of those days of strife we lay it before our readers. The young officer in question was the Hon. William Leslie, and the account of his fate is taken from "Custis's Recollections of the Life of Washington."

As an interesting addition to this item of Revolutionary history, I make the following extract from the journal of Col. Thomas Rodney, who commanded a body of Delaware militia during the campaign of January, 1777, and participated in the battles of Trenton and Princeton. The Col. Leslie he mentions is undoubtedly the same referred to in the above paragraph, and the coincidence is the more remarkable from the great lapse of time since the occurrence of the event :

PLUCKAMIN, N. J., Jan. 5, 1777.

"The General continued here this day also to refresh the army. He ordered 40 of our light infantry to attend the funeral of Col Leslie, to bury him with the honors of war. He was one of the enemy who fell at Princeton; they readily obeyed in paying due respect to bravery, though in an enemy.

Capt. Henry was now gone home and I myself had command of the five companies of infantry, but as I had not paid any attention to the military funeral ceremonies I requested Capt Humphries to conduct it. I had nothing to cover me here but my great coat, but luckily got into a house near the mountains, where I fared very comfortably while we stayed here.

These troops, Col. Rodney further states, were the only soldiers in the whole army in complete uniform, and while they remained at Morristown acted as General Washington's body-guard, doing all the parade duty, and acted also as the funeral escort to Col. Ford and Gen. Hitchcock."

CAESAR A. RODNEY.

The army only remained at Pluckamin for a few days, and then went into winter quarters near Morristown, sheltering themselves in huts on the south side of Kimball's mountain. The winter passed away in quietness, not, however, without suffering from sickness and want of sufficient provision. Often there were only three day's rations in the camp. Somerset County lay at the mercy of the enemy, whose foraging parties went out from New Brunswick, where Howe had quartered his troops, across the Millstone as far as Neshanic, and the South Branch, gathering everything they could lay their hands on, and maltreating the inhabitants most cruelly, whenever any resistance was offered. It seemed as if the idea that they were or might be rebels, formed a sufficient excuse in the minds of the soldiers for any outrage, that their passions prompted them to commit, They did not, however, always escape with impunity. On the 20th of January, sixteen days after Washington had passed Weston with his victorious army, a large party of the British, foraging as usual, was met there, routed, and 43 baggage wagons, 164 horses, 118

cattle, 70 sheep and 12 prisoners captured. The American party was under Gen. Dickenson, and included two companies from the Valley of Wyoming. We find the follow account of this little fight given in the "Field Book of the Revolution." "A line of forts had been established along the Millstone river, in the direction of Princeton. One of these, at Somerset Court House, (the village of Millstone), was occupied by Gen. Dickenson with two companies of the regular army, and about 300 militia. A mill on the opposite part of the stream contained considerable flour. Cornwallis, then lying at New Brunswick, dispatched a foraging party to capture it. The party consisted of about 400 men, with more than 40 wagons. The British arrived at the mill at Weston, in the morning and having loaded their wagons with flour, were about to return, when Gen. Dickenson leading a portion of his force through the river, middle deep, and filled with ice, attacked them with so much spirit, that they fled in haste, leaving the whole of their plunder with their wagons, behind them." Dickenson lost five men in this skirmage, and the enemy about 30 Washington warmly commended Gen. Dickenson for his enterprise and gallantry evinced in this little skirmish."

But the discomfeiture in one of their ravages, did not prevent them from repeating them almost daily in one direction or another around the whole country.

The whole region of the Raritan and Millstone was stripped. The farmers threshed their wheat and then hid it under the straw in the barn, in order to preserve it from the greedy enemy. In many instances not enough was saved to serve for seed in the autumn. Cellars, houses, pig pens and hen roosts, were all carefully explored, and everything desirable carried off to feed the insatiate cormorants.

Let us now leave Washington's soldiers in their tents near Morristown, undergoing innoculation for the small pox, as a "precautionary measure," and consuming lots of butter-nut pills in substitution for better medicines." While the wintermonths thus are passing, let us look towards the future. The prospect for the coming summer

in deed was not bright, but it was not quite so discouraging as the autumn had been. Trenton and Princeton, coming after Long Island and White Plains, and the surrender of Forts Washington and Lee, had shown that the British were not quite invulnerable and omnipotent.

Gen. Putnam was placed in observation at Princeton, soon after the defeat of the British. He had only a few hundred troops; sometime not as many as he had miles of frontier to guard. In January, Washington issued a proclamation from Morristown, directed to those who had taken protection, "discharging them from the obligations of their oath to the King, and directing them to repair to head-quarters, or the nearest general officer, and swear allegiance to the United States, as the condition of a full pardon, for what they had done in a moment of fear and despondency." It had a good effect; the people soon flocked from all quarters to take the oath, and all idea of British protection was abandoned.

Howe, at New Brunswick, as the spring opened, was the principal object of solicitude to Washington. It was evident he must attempt one of two things; either to move up the Hudson, and co-operate with Burgoyne approaching Albany from Ticonderoga, or attempt to reach Philadelphia by marching across the State of New Jersey. He determined so to place himself and his troops, as to shield them from attack, and at the same time have them ready to attack, if any movement was made. Sending the northern troops to the Highlands, he stationed his own on the heights north of Middlebrook, and repaired to the camp in person, on the 28th of May. He had only 8,398 men in all, inclusive of cavalry and artillery; and of these more than 2,000 were sick; so that the effective rank and file were only 5,738. Howe and Cornwallis had been employed during the winter in enlisting every loyalist possible, offering large and special rewards to deserters; and, strengthened in this way, far outnumbered the little army of Washington. What he had not in numbers, he endeavored however, to provide for by the advantage of his position and his superior vigilance. The drama was one of the most interesting in the whole war. Washington's

skill as a tactition was nowhere and on no occasion, more triumphantly displayed, than on the plains south of our mountain and east of Bound Brook, in June 1777. It is enough to say that he foiled his enemy completely, and finally forced him from the State.

He had seen early in the winter, that the campaign of this year must be an important one—perhaps the ultimate decision of the contest ; and that, so far as his antagonist Sir William Howe was concerned, it would embrace three points ! One an attempt from Canada by Burgoyne, to form a junction with the British at New York, by way of Albany and the Hudson ; and so by cutting off and isolating the eastern states of New England, divide and weaken the colonies. Another, to maintain British ascendency in New York, and by preventing commerce, weaken and discourage the people. Lastly, to obtain possession of the city of Philadelphia, preparatory to the efforts to conquer the southern states. These three objects attained, he felt that the cause of Independence would be lost, or at best only a question of time. The British might rest in their conquests, and leave the Americans to waste their strength in vain ; and it would not take long to do it ! It was therefore, his business to frustrate all these designs. With the view of preventing the junction between Burgoyne and the British forces in New York. He threw, early in the spring, additional forces into Ticonderoga, collected men and stores at Albany, and strengthened the defences at West Point and Peekskill ; and planted himself behind the mountain at Middlebrook, within striking distance of New Brunswick, and near enough to New York, to act in any emergency that might arise there in the progress of the pending operations.

We may sufficiently indicate the precise place of the encampment, by saying that it was on the right of the road leading through the mountain gorge in which Chimney Rock is situated, just where it rises up from the bed of the little stream, and attains the level of Washington valley. A strong earth work was thrown up about a quarter of a mile to the north west, almost in the centre of the valley, as a protection to any movement approaching

from Pluckamin ; and the whole of the defile leading through the narrow mountain valley was strongly guarded while the brow overlooking the plain bristled with cannon. Just at the edge of the wood, east of Chimney Rock, huts were erected as quarters for the officers, and everything done which either safety or comfort demanded in the emergency. At Bound Brook a strong redoubt was constructed, commanding the bridge over that miery little stream, just north of the present Railroad crossing, looking to any attack to be made from the way of New Brunswick. Having taken, in this way, all possible precaution against surprise, he felt strong to abide the issue of events. The result justified his sagacity as a military tactition.

In, the strong position described, guarded in front by the abrupt mountain wall and the wood crowning it ; and almost equi-distant from New York and Philadelphia, he was equally prepared for any movement made in either direction. While from the elevation of the mountain itself the whole plain upon which the enemy had to travel was visible to his watching eye. It would be difficult for Sir William Howe to change his position in any way, or attempt to come out of New Brunswick without finding some one on his heels who would not allow him a single mistake without taking advantage of it.

There was however no equality in the relative strength of the two armies, when the contest commenced. The British forces were well clothed and provisioned, and flushed with their success in the preceeding campaign. The army of Washington was a feeble band—the whole effective rank and file, when at Middlebrook, amounting only to 5,737 men ; more than half of which had never seen any service. And beside, there were elements of weakness in the corps itself. A large portion of it was composed of foreigners ; many of them servants—upon whose attachment to freedom it was not safe to depend. This circumstance was known to Sir William Howe ; and he had endeavored to profit by it, offering pardon and protection to all deserters, and bounties to any slaves who might bring in their arms and accoutrements. It was a dastardly stroke of policy ; and its meanness seems to have been its weakness.

Few took advantage of the offer, and the slaves remained content with their masters. As soon as Washington had taken his position at Middlebrook, Gen. Benedict Arnold was directed to form an army of Militia on the east side of the Delaware, and be prepared to dispute the passage of Howe, should he escape from Washington, and attempt to cross on his way to Philadelphia. And to give strength to his corps, a few companies of regular troops were detailed to assist him in making his dispositions effective.

At the same time Gen. Sullivan, who had remained in the vicinity of Princeton with a part of the regular army, and whose force was increasing daily by recruits from the South and the Militia of New Jersey, was ordered to hold himself in perpetual expectation of attack—to be prepared to send his bagage and provisions to a place of safety, and to move at a moment's warning—to preserve a communication with the main army at all times open ; by no means to risk a general engagement, but to act as a partizan corps ; and on the first movement of the British from their encampment at New Brunswick, after having placed his main body in safety, to harrass and annoy them by detatching active parties for that purpose. The whole militia of the state were also called out, and instructed to hang upon the main body of the British army ; and by ranging the country in small parties, harrass their flanks and rear, cut off their supplies, and injure them as much as possible.

Such was the state of things in Somerset County at the end of May, 1777 ; and now if we take a map of the State and place it before us, we shall have a chess-board, upon which to trace the subsequent movements of the opposing forces in that grand contest of stratagem and skill, which was about to commence, It is equal in interest and in ability to anything in the military text book. Its results entered largely into the ultimate success which crowned American valor, and gave liberty to these United States, so proud in their career of glory, so magnificent in their future prospects.

Leaving now Burgoyne to Schuyler and Gates, and Cornwallis looking anxiously for news from the north at New York, we concentrate our attention upon the two ar-

mies in Somerset County. Washington looking from the mountain summit in the rear of Bound Brook, and Howe at New Brunswick contriving to escape him, or to bring him down from his eirey, to fight him on the plains on more advantageous terms. The city of Philadelphia was the stake, and the play for it was magnificent.

The British General had two ways of attaining his object. One by marching through New Jersey and crossing the Delaware by a portable bridge, constructed for that purpose, during the winter at New Brunswick, and make his way directly to his object. The other to embark his army and attempt the city by the way of the Delaware or Chesapeak Bay. The first was preferable, and was therefore to be attempted before the other was resorted to.—The demonstration was made on the 14th of June. Gen. Sir William Howe, leaving 2000 men at New Brunswick under the command of Gen. Matthews, advanced in two columns towards Princeton, The first under Lord Cornwallis reached the village of Millstone by break of day; the other under DeHester arrived about the same time at Middlebush, having taken a route more to the south than that which the former pursued.

To meet the movement thus begun, Washington brought his army forward and posted it to great advantage in order of battle, on the south side of the mountain east of the gorge in which Chimney Rock is situated. This position he maintained during the whole day, and at night the troops slept upon their arms. In this condition things remained from the morning of the 14th to the evening of the 19th. Howe threatening and making every effort to induce the Americans to abandon their high ground and fight him on the plain; and Washington resolutely disregarding his taunts and maintaining his superior position; but perfectly prepared and willing to give him battle where he was.

Nor had he been idle at other points in anticipation of these movements. The troops from Peeks Kill, with the exception of 1000 effective men left there on guard, had been summoned to his aid, and were present and ready to act. A select corps of riflemen under Col. Mergan had been or-

ganized early in the season, and was acting as a partizen corps between the Raritan and Millstone, with instructions to watch the left flank of the enemy and fall on at the first favorable moment ; but not to permit himself to be surrounded, and his retreat to the main, body cut off. Morgans's men soon became a perfect scourge to the British regiments. Sir William Howe could not throw out a picket guard at any distance from the main army, but Morgan would drive it in ; and of woods and grain fields the enemy soon had a complete horror, and would at any time march a mile round to avoid them ; for they were almost sure to receive from every one which they approached a salute of Morgan's rifles. Ranging the whole country on the south side of the Raritan, from that river to Rocky Hill, he kept the inhabitants during the whole time that the British army remained on the east side of the Millstone, almost in a state of perfect security, and many a farmer owed to the fear of Morgan's men, the preservation of his tenements from the flames.

It has been a common mistake to assert that Morgan during this period was encamped on the ridge of land between the present residenees of Mr. Henry Garretson and what was formerly that of C. Brokaw, west of the Weston road. That encampment consisted of 1st, 2d and 7th Regiments of Pennsylvania troops, commanded by Gen. Anthony Wayne, and the time of their encampment there, was the winter of 1778 and 9. They came upon the ground in November, and remained until May. Their huts formed quite a town with its streets and parade ground in beautiful order, and when the encampment was broken up they proceeded to the Highlands, immediately after which, Stony Point fell, being stormed and taken by Gen. Anthony Wayne ! In the meantime Gen. Sullivan had changed his position from Princeton as soon as Howe moved towords Millstone, and lay on the high grounds of Rocky Hill, looking over the plains on which the scene was acting ; and the militia of New Jersey, rallying with an alacraty unexemplified at any previous time, took the field in great numbers, principally joining Gen. Sullivan, who again, when Howe threatened him from Middlebush and

the village of Millstone, retired behind the Shannock mountain, in the neighborhood of Clover Hill, and was forming a formidable army there to resist his progress to the Delaware.

When General Howe determined on leaving a part of his army at New Brunswick, marched out towards Millstone, with two divisions, stationing one at Middlebush, under the command of General De Heister, where two forts or redoubts were thrown up, one across the Amwell road, a few yards west of the house in which Moses Wolsey at present resides ; the other was about three hundred yards south of the former, adjoining the present railroad, on land then owned by Denice Van Liew.

The other division, under command of Lord Cornwallis, was stationed at Millstone, and a fort thrown up on the North side of the road, a few yards West of the present dwelling of John V. C. Wyckoff, on the land then owned by Hendrick Probasco. Another fort was thrown up on the opposite side of the road on land of Ann, widow of Cornelius Van Liew.

While the army was encamped there a great amount of property belonging to the inhabitants of the neighborhood was taken and destroyed, The Dutch Church was damaged. General Cornwallis, in marching with his division to Millstone, took the amwell road, which then came into the Princeton road but a short distance above the Mile Run Brook near New Brunswick, which he followed, until he reached Millstone, while General De Heister followed the one running along the West bank of the Raritan for more than three miles, until he came to the then Van Duyn place, where he turned to the left and followed the road leading from thence into the Amwell Road, a few yards east of the present Middlebush Church, about half a mile west of which he encamped with his troops.

This was the state of things from the 14th to the 19th of June. On the night of the 19th, Sir William Howe, finding the American army could not be drawn from its strong position, and seeing the crowds which flocked to join Sullivan in his front, determined to waste no more time in attempting to reach Philadelphia by land, returned to New

Brunswick. Here he remained only two days, and on the 22d, proceeded to Amboy, when he threw over the Kills the bridge of boats intended to cross the Delaware, and commenced passing over his bagge and some of his light troops to Staten Island. His whole retreat was precipatous and was marked by the smoking ruins of barns and farm houses ; but it was not peaceable. Morgan's eye was upon him, and at sun rise on the morning of the 22d the sharp report of his rifles sounded in his ears, as he attacked and drove in his picket guard, and when they threw themselves into the redoubts on the hill west of New Brunswick, Wayne was there to second Morgan's attack. These were soon abandoned, and the whole army having crossed the Raritan, was seen in full flight towards Amboy. Some sharp skirmishing took place between the rear guard and Morgan's riflemen, but the march was conducted in such a guarded manner that nothing effectual could be accomplished. Sullivan was now ordered to move his division and co-operate with Green and Maxwell, who had been directed to watch the enemies flanks and rear, and molest them in every possible way. But from the distance at which he was encamped, he was unable to come up in time. And the express sent to Maxwell either deserted or was taken ; and the rear guard being stronger than was expected, Green with his three brigades could make no effectual impression on them. In consequence the retreat to Amboy was less disastrous than it might have been, had circumstances favored our troops ! An aged man who was a native of Middlebush, and as a boy was taken prisoner when the British retreated, related that in returning from the movement above described, the troops crossed below Bound Brook to the north side of the Raritan, on their way to New Brunswick. It is difficult to see the occasion of such a movement, and yet more difficult to discredit the testimony of an eye witness. Perhaps it was in the hope of tempting Washington to attack them.

While the movements indicated above were being made, the whole army of Washington had remained paraded every day on the heights north of Bound Brook, really to act as circumstances might require. But now, in order to

cover his light parties which hung on the British rear, he descended from his position and advanced to New Market, some six or seven miles eastward, and the division under Lord Sterling proceeded still further, to Metuchen meeting house, being directed to act with the several parties of Green and Morgan already on the lines and harrassing the rear of the retreating army.

As soon as Washington had made this movement, Sir Wm. Howe thought the moment had arrived to bring on a general engagement, a thing which he had sought and hoped for from the commencement of active operations. With this view, on the night of the 25th he hastily recalled the troops which had been transported to Staten Island, and early next morning, made a rapid movement in two columns, toward Westfield. The right, under command of Lord Cornwallis, took the route by Woodbridge, to Scotch Plains, and aimed to seize the strong pass through the mountains west of Plainfield, and thus, by gaining the rear of Washington, force him from his advantageous position on the high grounds, and oblige him to fight on the plains. The left, under the personal direction of Sir Wm Howe, marched by Metuchen meeting house, and intended to attack the Americans at New Market, and, ultimately, gain also the heights on the left of the camp at Middlebrook. If this well concentrated movement had succeeded, Washington would have either been obliged to fly towards the Highlands, on the Hudson River, or to fight the well appointed army before him with his feeble force, upon such terms and in such a position as to afford but slight hopes of success. But a kind Providence averted the well aimed blow.

Howe's own account is in the following words: The necessary preparations being finished for crossing the troops to Staten Island, intelligence was received that the enemy had moved down from the mountain and taken post at Quibbletown, (New Market) intending, as was given out, to attack the rear of the army removing from Amboy—that two corps had advanced to their left—one of 3000 men and eight pieces of cannon, under the command of Lord Sterling, Gen's. Maxwell and Conway; the last,

said to be a captain in the French service. The other corps, consisted of about 700 men with only one piece of cannon. In this situation, it was thought advisable to make a movement that might lead on to an attack, which was done on the 26th in the morning, in two columns.

At Woodbridge, the right column of the British fell in with the light parties sent out to watch their motion, and thus acquainted Washington with the movement. He at once penetrated the whole design, ordered his army back with the utmost celerity to their original position at Middlebrook, and sent out a party to guard the heights which the enemy intended to seize. The left, under Cornwallis, encountered Lord Sterling, and after a severe skirmish, drove him from his position and pursued him over the hills as far as Westfield, where they halted. But the pass in the mountain west of Plainfield being guarded, and Washington, like an eagle, perched again upon his eyry, and Sterling beyond the reach of Cornwallis, the British commander saw that the object in view of which his whole manœuver had been made, was beyond his reach, turned his face again towards the seaboard; and on the 30th of June crossed over to Staten Island with his whole army. His course was a clear acknowledgment that he was beaten; and that too, by a force far inferior to his own. Both his designs were defeated. He had neither gained an open road to Philadelphia, nor brought on a general engagement; and after manoeuvering a month and more, was obliged to change the whole object of the campaign; or seek to gain its end by a circuitous route, in which there was both danger and uncertainty.

As the result of his contest with Sterling's command, the British General claims to have captured three brass cannon and three captains; and computes the American loss at 60 men killed and more than 200 wounded, while he avers that Cornwallis had only 5 killed and 30 wounded, and ends by excusing the want of success, from the day proving so intensely hot, that the soldiers could with difficulty continue their march. In fact there was always something the matter with the British commander. His most successful feat seems to have been that moonlight race from

the battle of Monmouth in the next summer. It was so swift and successful, that when the morning dawned, Washington dispaired being able to come up with him, and let him go until another time.

So now, from Westfield and Scotch Plains, he glories in having made a safe retreat again to his ships at Amboy.

Even in this he was not left unmolested. Scott and Conway were despatched to watch his motions, and annoy him in every way ; and the rear guard of the British army was not yet out of Amboy, before the former marched into it, and took posses-ion. But the guarded and soldier like manner in which the whole retreat was managed, prevented any successful attack, and so the prize fled from our State in safety.

Such were some of the busy scenes enacted in the counties of Somerset and Middlesex, in the spring and early summer of 1777. Armies were marching and countermarching daily. The tread of the war horse echoed through their peaceful solitudes, and the glitter of steel flashed in the sunlight, while the vast interests dependent upon every movement, filled the minds, not only of the actors, but also of all the inhabitants, with the most intense interest.

On the apex of the Round top, on the left of the gorge, in which Chimney Rock stands, there are yet to be seen rude remains of a hut, which Washington sometimes frequented, during these anxious months of 1777. On the east side of the gorge, also, fronting the plain north of Middlebrook, there is a rock, which has been named "Washington Rock," because there he often stood to gaze anxiously upon the scene it overlooks.

On the mountain, west of Plainfield also, there is a very large rock, which has received the same appellation, from this circumstance. On the 30th of June, while Sir Wm. Howe and Cornwallis were moving in the plain between the Raritan and Amboy, no more favorable position from which to see every motion, could be desired, and it is not improbable that there, the noble form of the American Fabius was often seen from morning until evening, during all these anxious days. Perhaps we owe to these spots, more

than has yet been imagined. A less perfect knowledge on the part of Washington, of every movement of his enemies, might have involved him in a false position. Had he not been in a situation, when on his rock elevation, to see at once the aim of Sir Wm. Howe in that well concerted movement from Amboy, his regiments might have been captured after he left his strong camp at Bound Brook and advanced upon the plain, and then our soil too, would have been saturated with human gore, and our vicinity celebrated as another of the battle fields of liberty. But as it was, life was spared, the designs of our enemies frustrated, and the triumph of the principles of human liberty secured. Let the memory of all such places live, and let pilgrims visit them as consecrated spots, as long as the glory of the great deeds and the enduring fame of the noble man with whom they are associated shall continue.

The British remained on Staten Island until the middle of July, and then embarked and sailed for the Chesapeake. Washington, after a few days, hearing of Burgoyne's approach to Ticonderoga, moved his army to Morristown, and advanced Sullivan as far as Pompton Plains—and then again to Peeks Kill, while he himself took position at Pompton. But as soon as Howe had passed out of Sandy Hook, knowing well that his aim was to the city of Philadelphia, he returned through the county of Somerset, and crossed the Delaware at New Hope, hastening to the scene of action. The result was the battle of Brandywine on the 11th of Sept. Germantown Oct., 4th, and finally the occupation of the city of Philadelphia by the British forces.

The route of this march across the State is no where stated so far as we have read. It was probably by the way of Newark and New Brunswick, by the troops from Peekskill; and by Morristown and Millstone, by those from Pompton. The State was now cleared of all Military companies and warlike action, and remained so until the evacuation of Philadelphia, June 18th, 1778. It was almost a year of sweet rest for its wasted inhabitants.—When the British entered it again, there was a very different state of feeling existing among the people.

For some time after Sir Wm. Howe had embarked his

troops at Amboy, there hung great uncertainty over his destination, but on the 30th of July the fleet appeared off the Capes of Delaware apparently desiring, but fearing to enter the river, and only finally reached the Chesapeake on the 16th of August. Washington, upon learning this, concentrated his army at once in the vicinity of Philadelphia. On the 25th of August the British landed at the Ferry of Elk Run. The whole force was computed at 18,000 men. On the 15th of September, occurred the Battle of Brandywine. Various movements and skirmishes succeeded, the taking of the forts on the Delaware, then came the battle of Germantown, and finally the occupation of the city of Philadelphia, the great object of solicitude, on the part of Howe, during the whole summer. Then came news of the capture of Burgoyne at Saratoga, October 13, and Washington encamped for the winter at Valley Forge, on the Schuylkill, and the active operations of another year ended.

We have seen the British resting in Philadelphia, in the winter of 1777 and 1778, and Washington watching them along the Schuylkill from Valley Forge and Whitemarsh. The winter was a weary and discouraging one. The American troops were ill clad, ill fed, and exposed to sickness, but they endured it all with patriotic patience, and waited for the opening of the next spring for action.—And a stirring scene it was indeed. The British army had been comfortable in their quarters in the city, and the officers had sought to ingratiate themselves with the inhabitants by "theatricals, balls, and suppers;" but their success had hardly corresponded to the efforts put forth. They lingered through the whole spring, but finally, on the 18th of June, crossed the Delaware at Camden and Burlington, and proceeded on their march to the city of New York, by the way of Allentown, Washington put his troops in motion to follow their footsteps, and if possible, bring on an engagement before they had reached their ships on Monmouth shore. He crossed his army at Coryelle's Ferry and marching by the way of Pennington and Kingston, approached his enemy.

From the lines on which the two armies were marching,

it soon became evident that there would be a meeting and conflict, somewhere in the vicinity of Freehold or Englishtown, in Monmouth county. Washington was greatly embarrassed however, by differing opinions among his officers. Lee, with five other general officers, was in favor of the policy of a perpetual annoyance of the enemy on the march; Green, Wayne and Lafayette, thought with Washington, that it was possible to defeat the British army and make them prisoners, before they could extricate themselves and reach their ships in the Raritan Bay. Finally, soon after passing the Millstone, at Kingston, the Commander-in-Chief determined to take the responsibility and to carry ont his own private views, by attacking his enemy with his whole force. Detatching Wayne, with 1000 men to the front, and giving Lafayette command of all the advanced parties, he moved forward the main body of his troops to Cranberry on the 26th of June. On the 27th, Lafayette reached Englishtown. Sir Henry Clinton apprehending an immediate attack, placed all his baggage in his front. and took up a strong position at Freehold.

In this situation the morning of the 28th of June dawned. It was the Christian Sabbath. The sky was cloudless over the plains of Monmouth, and the sun came up with all the fervor of the summer solstice. It was the sultriest day of the year, but twenty thousand men had girded on the implements of cruel war, and stood ready for the battle which decided a long conflict and gave us our freedom. We refer to the published description of the battle for particulars.

We only remark that notwithstanding the misconduct of Lee, for which he was tried and dismissed from the army, the victory of the Americans was so complete, that during the night the British forces retreated to their ships at Middletown shore, and so made their escape before Washington had time to reach them in the morning. Sir Henry Clinton's moonlight raid from Freehold to the waiting ships, of which he wrote a brilliant account to his friends at home, may be quoted as one of the most successful runnings of the war, if not among its most brilliant exploits.

On the day of the battle of Monmouth the French fleet

arrived off the coast, one month earlier the British ships would have been caught at Philadelphia. It was proposed to attempt the same thing in the harbour of New York, but unfortunately they drew so much water, that they were unable to pass the Bar at Sandy Hook, and went to Newport, and Washington marched his army again to the North River above New York, sending a part of it into Rhode Island to assist in the attack made by the French fleet upon Newport. He himself continued with his troops at Haverstraw.

In a few desultory movements the season was spent, and the French fleet in December, went to winter in the West Indies and the campaign closed.

Washington with the remainder of his troops came to the vicinity of Somerville and selected as the place for encampment, the slope of woodland north east of Mount Pleasant, the officers occupied the huts which had been erected on the south side of the mountain east of the gorge of Chimney Rock. He himself took up his quarters at the house of William Wallace, in Somerville, and here Mrs. Washington came and joined him, and they passed the winter.

There were about 7000 men at Mount Pleasant and at Chimney Rock; the principal part at the former place. The Commander-in-Chief had, on the 26th of October through Lord Sterling, caused the following resolutions of the Continental Congress to be published to the army, subscribed by Francis Barber, Adj. Gen'l. viz:

WHEREAS, religion and good morals are the only solid foundation of public liberty and happiness;

RESOLVED, That it be, and hereby is earnestly recommended to the several States to take the most effectual measures for the encouragement thereof, and for the suppression of theatrical entertainments, horse racing, gaming and such other diversions as are productive of idleness, dissipation, and general depravity of principles and manners.

RESOLVED, That all officers in the army of the United States, be hereby strictly enjoined to see that the good and wholesome rules provided for the discountenance of pro-

faneness and vice, and the preservation of morals among the soldiers, are duly and punctually observed.

In consequence whereof, the Commander-in-Chief of the army in this State, directs, that strict obedience to the foregoing resolves be paid by all officers and soldiers within the same. By order of Major-General Lord Sterling, Commander of the Confederate troops of New Jersey.

FRANCIS BARBER, Adj.-Gen.

On the 6th of February, 1779, when the encampment was just completed and regular order fully established, Washington himself supplemented the above by the following additional orders :

The Commander-in-Chief approves of the order issued by Major Gen. Lord Sterling during his command at the camp, and thanks him for the endeavor to preserve order and discipline, and the property of the farmers in the vicinity of the camp. He doubts not but the officers of every rank, from a just sense of the importance of securing to others the blessings they themselves are contending for, will use their utmost vigilance to to maintain those privileges and prevent abuses, as nothing can redound more to their personal honor and the reputation of their respective corps. Extract from general orders.

ALEXANDER SCAMMIL, Adj.-Gen.

Precisely when the encampment broke up in the next summer is not readily ascertained Gen. Wayne, whose corps lay on the south side of the Raritan River, left there on the last days of June for Stony Point, which he assaulted and captured on the 15th of July. It is probable that the troops were gradually withdrawn, and from this time our County ceased to be the resting place of the armies fighting in the cause of liberty, and the foot of a British soldier trod it no more except in one hasty visit, which is to be related.

The alliance which had been formed with France in consequence of which, Rochambeau and Count De Grasse were sent to the United States, was, during the winter 1779, a matter of universal congratulation. After the army had been comfortably hutted, the officers of the artillery stationed in the vicinity of Pluckamin, gave an enter-

tainment, consisting of a ball and supper in honor of the event. We extract the following account of this joyous occasion from cotemporary records. It is in the following words : "The anniversary of our alliance with France was celebrated on the 18th ultimo at Pluckamin, at a very elegant entertainment and display of fireworks given by Gen. Knox and the officers of the Corps of Artillery. It was postponed to this late day on account of the Commander in Chief being absent from the camp. Gen. Washington, the principal officers of the army, with Mrs. Washington. Mrs. Green, Mrs. Knox, and the ladies and gentlemen of a large circuit round the camp, were of the company. Besides these, there was a vast concourse of spectators from every part of the Jerseys.

The barracks of the artillery are at a small distance from Pluckamin, on a piece of rising ground, which shows them to great advantage. The entertainment and ball were held at the Academy of the Park. About 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the celebration of the Alliance was announced by the discharge of 13 cannon, when the company assembled to a very elegant dinner. The room was spacious and the tables were prettily disposed, both as to prospect and convenience. The festivity was universal and the toasts descriptive of the happy event, which had given certainty to our liberties, empire and independence. In the evening was exhibited a very fine set of fire works conducted by Col. Stevens arranged on the point of a temple 100 feet in length and proportionately high. The temple showed 13 arches, each displaying an illuminated painting. The centre arch was ornamented with a pediment larger than the others, and the whole edifice supported by a colonade of the Corinthian order

The illuminated paintings were disposed of in the following order. The 1st arch on the right represented the commencement of hostilities at Lexington, with this inscription—"The scene opened ;" 2d, 'British Clemency,' represented in the burning of Charleston, Falmouth, Norfolk and Kingston ; 3d, "The separation of America from Britain." "By your tyranny to the people of America, you have separated the wide arch of an extended empire ;

4th, "Britain represented as a decaying empire, by a barren country, broken arches, fallen spires, ships deserting its shores, birds of prey hovering over its mouldering cities, and a gloomy setting sun. Motto :

> The Babylonian spires are sunk
> Achaia, Rome and Egypt mouldered down :
> Time shakes the stable tyranny of thrones,
> And tottering Empires crushed by their own weight."

5, America represented as a rising Empire, prospect of a fertile country, harbors and rivers covered with ships, new canals opening, cities rising amidst woods, splendid sun emerging from a bright horrizon. Motto,

> "New worlds are seen emerging from the deep
> The old descending in their turn to rise."

6. A grand illuminated representation of Louis 16, the encourager of letters, the supporter of the rights of humanity, the ally and friend of the American people ; 7th, the centre arch, "The Fathers in Congress." Motto, *Nil desperandum Reipublicae ;"* 8th, The American Philosopher and Ambassador, extracting lightning from the clouds ; 9th, Battle near Saratoga, Oct. 7, 1777 ; 10, The Convention of Saratoga ; 11th, A representation of the sea-fight off Ushant, between Count De Orvilliers and Admiral Keppel ; 12th, Warren Montgomery, Mercer, Wooster, Nash, and a crowd of heroes who have fallen in the American contest, in Elysium, receiving the thanks and praises of Brutus, Cato and those other spirits, who, in all ages, have gloriously struggled against tyrants and tyranny. Motto, "Those who shed their blood in such a cause shall live and reign forever ;" 13th, represented *peace*, with all her train of blessings, her right hand displaying an olive branch, at her feet lay the honors of harvest, the background was filled with flourishing cities, ports crowded with ships and other elements of an extended Empire and unrestrained commerce.

When the fireworks were finished, the company returned to the Academy and concluded the celebration by a very splendid ball.

The whole was conducted in a style and manner that reflects great honor on the task of the mAnagers.

The news announced to Congress, from the Spanish branch of the house of Bourbon, arriving at the moment of celebration, nothing could so opportunely have increased the good humor of the company, or added to those animated expressions of pleasure which arose on the occasion."

The exact locality of the 'Academy' tradition fixes on the east side of the village street, a short distance north of the late Boylan residence, and the edge of the wood, on the farm of the late Dr. Henry Vanderveer. There are many graves yet visible near the encampment at the foot of the mountain.

During the time that the troops were at Pluckamin, the child of Gen. Knox died, and was buried in the Cemetery of Bedminster Church. The following is found on the tomb :

" *Under this stone are deposited the Remains of Julia Knox, an infant, who died the 2nd of July,* 1779. *She was the Second Daughter of Henry and Lucy Knox, of Boston, in New England.*

This grave is situated directly west of the front doors of the Church, and about 25 feet from the building.

The Spring of 1780, while Washington lingered with his army near Somerville, was a characteristic season of the war. It was earnestly hoped, and by many believed, that the French alliance would bring peace and independence very soon. So they thought at pluckamin and represented in one of their illuminated paintings. In some respects it was an unfortunate delusion, for it tended to paralyze the exertions of Congress and the people generally and produced delay in all the departments of the civil and military service.

Then the currency had become largely depreciated. The dollar which in 1777, was worth 7 shillings and six pence, in 1780, passed for only 3 pence. We have had the use of an old list made as a memorandum of this progress of the downfall of the circulating medium, and append it as a curiosity.

September 1777, the Continental dollars passed for 7 shillings and 6 pence ; October, 10s ; November, 6s 3p ; December, 5s 8p ; January 1778, 5s 2p ; February 4s 8p;

March, 4s 3p ; April 3s 9p ; May, 3s 3p ; June, 2s 10p ; July, 2s 6p ; August, 2s 2p ; September, 1s 10 1-2p ; October, 1s 7 1-2p ; November, 1s 4p ; December, 1s 2p ; January 1779, 1s ; February, 10 1-2p; March, 9p ; April, 8p ; May, 7 1-2p ; June, 6 1-3p ; July, 6p ; August, 5 1-2p ; September, 5p ; October, 4 1-2p ; November, 4p; December, 3 1-2p ; January 1780, 3p ; February, 3p ; March, 2 1-2p, and up to the 18th of May 1780, 2 1-10p and then 0. How the people managed in such a state of things, to sell or traffic at all, is a mystery, and how the armies were kept in the field is almost a miracle. It is only another confirmation of the adage 'what is to be done will be done.' Robert Morris's immense fortune was often the only confidence which floated the Continental currency, and kept the armies in the field.

In June the army broke up its encampment and moved to the vicinity of Hackensack. Stony Point was taken by Gen. Anthony Wayne on the 15th of July, and on the 18th of August, Lord Sterling, aided by Major Lee, assaulted and took the fort at Paules Hook, now Jersey City, making prisoners of 150 men and officers.

Somerset was exempt from any disturbance, and the armies did not in any way intrude on the pursuits of husbandry. Only once the army passed through this county on its way to Yorktown, and at the close of the war, while Congress was in session, at Princeton, Washington and his guard and officers attended there for a short period, and we therefore close here the Revolutionary history of our county, so far as active operations are concerned.

CHAPTER VII.

SIMCOE'S RAID, AND CONCLUDING SCENES OF THE REVOLUTION.

One of the most celebrated incidents of the war, especially in Somerset County, was the raid of Lieut. Col. Simcoe from Amboy to Van Veghten's Bridge, in which he succeeded in the burning of a number of boats lying in the Raritan, one and a half miles below Somerville, the Church of Raritan, the Court House at Millstone, and reached the ambuscade formed to protect and receive him and his Corps at Spotswood, with the loss of only three men killed and six taken prisoners, one of which was Simcoe himself. Col. Lee says in his "Memoirs of the War," that it was considered by both armies among the handsomest exploits of the war. The Corps called the "Queen's Rangers," which made this raid, consisted, mostly of native Americans who favored the Royal cause, enlisted chiefly in the vicinity of New York and Connecticut. It had mustered at one time four hundred men ; but was reduced in numbers when Col. Simcoe assumed the command in 1777. He soon made it as a corps, a model of order, bravery and military skill ; and it was in its very best condition when acting in New Jersey. We are then to understand that it was not British soldiers who committed the outrage on property devoted to religious purposes, but renegade Americans ; and the pilot is said was Jim Stewart, a native of Somerset County. We have an account of this raid from Lieut. Col. Simcoe himself ; and we shall let him give his own version and then append our comments. The following is an extract from his Military Journal, published under his own supervision :

"On the 25th of October, by 8 o'clock at night, the de-

tachment, which had been detailed, marched to Billop's Point where they were to embark. That the enterprise might be effectually concealed, Lt. Col. Simcoe described a man, as a rebel spy, said to be on the island, and endeavoring to escape to New Jersey, a great reward was offered for taking him, and the militia of the Island were watching all the points where it was possible for any man to hide in order to apprehend him. The batteaux and boats, which were appointed to be ready at Billop's Point, and to pass the whole over by twelve o'clock at night, did not arrive until three o'clock in the morning. No time was lost. The infantry of the Queen's Rangers were landed ; they ambuscaded every avenue to the town. The cavalry followed as fast as possible.

As soon as it was formed, Lieut. Col. Simcoe called together the officers ; he told them of his plan, "that he meant to burn the boats at Van Vacter's bridge, and crossing the Raritan at Hillsborough, to return by the road to Brunswick, and, making a circuit to avoid that place as soon as he came near it, to discover himself when beyond it, on the heights where the Grenadier Redoubt stood while the British troops were cantoned there, and where the Queen's Rangers afterward had been encamped ; and to entice the militia, if possible, to follow him into an ambuscade which the infantry would lay for them at South River bridge." Major Armstrong was to re-embark as soon as the cavalry marched, and land on the opposite side of the Raritan, at South Amboy. He was then, with the utmost dispatch and silence, to proceed to South River bridge, six miles from South Amboy, where he was to ambuscade himself, without passing the bridge or taking it up. A smaller creek falls into this river on the South Amboy side ; into the peninsula formed by these streams, Liut. Col. Simcoe hoped to allure the Jersey militia. In case of accident, Maj. Armstrong was desired to give credit to any messenger who should give him the parole of "Clinton and Montrose." It was daybreak before the cavalry left Amboy. The procuring of guides had been by Sir Henry Clinton intrusted to Brigadier Skinner ; he either did not or could not obtain them ; for but one was

found who knew perfectly the cross-road he meant to take to avoid the main road from Somerset Court House, or Hillsborough, to Brunswick. Capt. Sanford formed the advance guard, the Huzzars followed, and Stuart's men were in the rear, making, in the whole, about eighty. A Justice Crow was soon overtaken ; Lieut. Col. Simcoe accosted him roughly, called him "Tory," nor seemed to believe his excuse when, in the American idiom for courtship, he said "he had only been a sparking," but sent him to the rear guard, who, being Americans, easily comprehended their instructions, and kept up the justice's belief that the party was a detatchment from Washington's army. Many plantations were now passed by, the inhabitants of which were up, and whom the party accosted with friendly salutations. At Quibbletown, Lieut. Col. Simcoe had just quitted the advance guard to speak to Lieut. Stewart, [Lieut. Stewart was a native of Somerset County, a partisan Royalist, and extensively known as "Tory Jim." If he had been recognized anywhere about Bound Brook or Raritan, it would not have been well for him.] when, from a public house on the turn of the road, some people came out with knapsacks on their shoulders, bearing the appearance of a rebel guard. Capt. Sanford did not see them till he had passed by, when, checking his horse to give notice, the huzzars were reduced to a momentary halt opposite the house. Perceiving the supposed guard they threw themselves off their horses, sword in hand, and entered the house. Lieut. Col. Simcoe instantly made them remount ; but they failed to discover some thousand pounds of paper money which had been taken from a passenger, the master of a privateer, nor could he stay to search for it. He told the man "that he would be answerable to give him his money that night at Brunswick, where he should quarter," exclaimed aloud to his party, "that these were not the tories they were in search of, although they had knapsacks," and told the country people who were assembling around, "that a party of Tories had made their escape from Sullivan's army, and were trying to get into Staten Island, as Iliff (who had been defeated near this very spot, taken and executed) had for-

merly done ; and that he was sent to intercept them." The sight of Justice Crow would, probably, have aided in deceiving the inhabitants ; but unfortunately, a man personally knew Lieut. Col. Simcoe, and an express was sent to Gov. Livingston, then at Brunswick, as soon as the party marched. It was now conducted by a country lad whom they fell in with, and to whom Capt. Sanford (being dressed in red, and without his cloak) had been introduced as a French officer. He gave information, that the greater part of the boats had been sent on to Washington's camp, but that eighteen were at Van Vacter's bridge, and that their horses were at a farm about a mile from it. He led the party to an old camp of Washington's, above Bound Brook. [This encampment was on the mountain side east of the gorge of Chimney Rock.] Lieut. Col. Simcoe's instructions were, to burn these huts, if possible, in order to give as wide an alarm to the Jerseys as he could. He found it impracticable to do so—they not being joined in ranges, nor built of very combustible materials. He proceeded without delay to Bound Brook, whence he intended to carry off Col. Moyland ; but he was not at Mr. Vanhorns. [It is understood that Col. Moyland had married a daughter of Mr. Phillip Van Horn, and was known to be frequently there on visits to his wife.] Two officers who had been ill were there ; their paroles were taken, and they were ordered to mark "sick quarters" over the room door they inhabited, which was done ; and Mr. Vanhorn was informed that the party was the advance guard of the left column of the army, which was commanded by Gen. Birch, who meant to quarter that night at his house,—and that Sir Henry Clinton was in full march for Morristown, with the army. The party proceeded to Van Vacter's bridge. Lieut Col. Simcoe found 18 new flat boats, upon carriages ; they were full of water He was determined effectually to destroy them. Combustibles had been applied for, and he received, in consequence, a few port fires ; every huzzar had a hand-grenade, and several hatchets were brought with the party. The timbers of the boats were cut through, they were filled with straw and railing, and some grenades being fastened in them, they

were set on fire. Forty minutes were employed in this business. The country began to assemble in their rear ; and, as Lieut. Col. Simcoe went to the Dutch meeting,—where the harness, and some stores, were reported to be —a rifle-shot was fired at him from the opposite bank of the river. This house, with a magazine of forage, was now consumed, ["The Dutch Meeting" was the Church of Raritan, built in 1721 on land donated to the congregation by Michael Van Veghten. Some of the ropes used in hauling the boats from the Delaware, had been thrown under the portico of the church, but anything else that could be called property or "stores" there was not ; the rifle shot fired from the opposite side of the river was only a shot gun loaded for shooting pigeons, and fired by a young man, at such a long range, as to do no possible execution ; who, immediately took to his heels and ran away. There was no "magaze of forage" anywhere near the bridge, with the exception of the ropes ; and there had been nothing else there at any time. The boats were intended to be floated down the river and employed in making a descent on Staten Island and attacking the British encampments there; and it is a mistake, to say that a commissary and his people were made prisoners. We say this on the authority of a witness living on the Raritan at that very time and perfectly cognizant of all the particulars from whose lips we are giving our testimony. Simcoe's account was written, probably, long after the time when the event occurred and particulars were forgotten ; and the burning of the Church therefore, stands unexcused as a wanton outrage for which there was no provocation in the circumstances of the case, or in the recognized rules of civilized warfare.] the commissary and his people being made prisoners. The party proceeded to Somerset Courthouse, or Hillsborough. Lieut. Col. Simcoe told the prisoners not to be alarmed, that he would give them their paroles before he left the Jerseys ; but he could not help heavily lamenting to the officers with him, the sinister events which prevented him from being at Van Vacter's bridge some hours sooner,—as it would have been very feasible to have drawn off the flat boats to the South river, instead of destroying them. He proceed-

ed to Somerset Courthouse. Three loyalists who were prisoners there, were liberated. One of them was a dreadful spectacle; he appears to have been almost starved, and was chained to the floor. [We have no information in regard to the prisoners in the jail at Millstone; but we believe the scene described to be an exaggeration. The partizans of the British, it is true, were not much respected in Somerset County, but humanity was never forgotten in dealing with them. They had coats of "tar and feathers" bestowed on them; but "almost starvation" is evidently an hyperbolic form of expression.] The soldiers wished and it was permitted, to burn the court house. It was unconnected with any other building, and, by its flames showed on which side of the Raritan he was, and would, most probably, operate to assemble the neighborhood of Brunswick at its bridge, to prevent him from returning by that road. The party proceeded toward Brunswick.—Alarm guns were now heard, and some shots were fired at the rear, particularly by one person, who, as it afterward appeared, (being out a shooting, and hearing of the incursion,) had sent word to Gov. Livingston, who was at Brunswick, that he would follow the party at a distance, and then give a shot, that he might know which way they directed their march. Passing by some houses, Lieut. Col. Simcoe told the women to inform four or five people who were pursuing the rear, "that if they fired another shot, he would burn every house which he passed." A man or two were now slightly wounded. As the party approached Brunswick, Lieut. Col. Simcoe began to be anxious for the cross-road diverging from it into the Princeton road, which he ment to pursue, and which having once arrived at, he himself knew the by-ways to the heights he wished to attain, where having frequently done duty, he was minutely acquainted with every advantage and circumstance of the ground. His guide was perfectly confident that he was not yet arrived at it; and Lieut. Col. Simcoe was in earnest conversation with him, and making the necessary inquiries, when a shot, at some little distance, discovered there was a party in front. He immediately galloped thither; and he sent back Wright, his orderly sergeant to

acquaint Capt. Sandford "that the shot had not been fired at the party," when, on the right at some distance, he saw the rail fence (which was very high on both sides of the narrow road between two woods) somewhat broken down, and a man or two near it, when, putting his horse on the canter, he joined theadvance men of the Huzzars, determining to pass through this opening, so as to avoid every ambuscade that might be laid for him, or attack, upon more equal terms, Col. Lee, (whom he understood to be in the neighborhood, and apprehended might be opposed to him,) or any other party ; when he saw some men concealed behind logs and bushes, between him and the opening he meant to pass through, and he heard the words "Now, now," and found himself, when he recovered his senses, prisoner with the enemy, his horse being killed with five bullets, and himself stunned by the violence of his fall.

[The result near DeMott's Tavern, two miles west of New Brunswick requires more additions, than any other part of the narrative, to render it complete. Col. Simcoe's horse was shot under him and he himself thrown violently to the ground and rendered insensible. James Schureman, of New Brunswick, saved his life by thrusting aside the bayonet of a soldier of the militia who attempted to stab him ; he was braced up against a tree, and Dr. Jonathan Ford Morris, afterwards of Somerville, then a student of medicine in New Brunswick, bled him, and administered such restoratives as could be obtained. He was then taken to New Brunswick and properly cared for. He recovered and was exchanged ; entered on his command again, and was present with his Corps, the Queen's Rangers, at Spencer's Ordinary on James River, July 1781 ; at King's Bridge, January 1778, and at Oyster Bay, Long Island, 1778–9, where there was literally a "nest of Tories," of whom William Franklin, late Governor of New Jersey, was Chief. He became, after the Revolution, Governor of Upper Canada, and wrote to enquire for the young man who had so kindly and humanely assisted him at DeMott's Tavern ; and again, a second time, to Dr. Morris himself, thanking him for his attentions, and offering him advancement and active assistance, provided he would visit him in

Canada ; which Dr. Morris saw reasons to decline. Simcoe died in England. in 1806, and has a mural monument with several sculptured figures, in Exeter Cathedral, executed by Flaxman, the famous English Sculptor It is said to be an unfavorable example of his ability, having little poetic character in its design, and no refinement of form in execution.

Among the pursuers of the Rangers from Millstone was Capt. G. P. Voorhees, a brave man, who in his ardor outstripped his comrades Seeing him alone, several of the Rangers turned upon him, and in attempting to leap a fence to escape from their assault his horse became entangled and hung on the rails. In this situation he was terribly hacked with their swords, and carried bleeding to New Brunswick, where he died in a few hours

After the loss of their leader, the Rangers hastened to the appointed rendezvous at South River ; and there Dr. Ryker and Mr. John Polhemus were made prisoners, by the covering party sent from Amboy to protect them as they came in. The whole enterprise was certainly conducted with spirit, and resulted in the loss of fewer lives than could have been expected. The benefits were nothing, but the disabling of eighteen flat boats, which would not have been used, had they not been burned. As to the prisoners, at Millstone, no one specially cared ; it was probably regarded as a good riddance ; but the Church and the Court House had done no harm ; and the first, especially, was not amenable to military execution ; and its destruction was neither justifiable or necessary, in any way, except as an annoyance to the citizens of Somerset County.]

CONCLUDING SCENES.

After this the tide of war drifted away almost entirely from Somerset County. It was a great relief to its inhabitants, and left them time to recuperate a little from their severe losses. The armies had eaten out their substance almost entirely. The farmers often had not been able to save grain enough to give their families bread, and supply seed for their fields for another harvest. But their firm pa-

triotism was not evaporated. The depreciation of the "continental currency" was more perplexing and entailed more real loss, than all the previous injuries of the war. Contracts for the army could not be made ; and in the winter of 1780, the army at Morristown were reduced to "famine rations." A military requisition had to be made by Washington upon the people for supplies to feed his starving troops. With this necessary imposition New Jersey promptly complied : and Somerset county hastened to bring in her alloted contribution among the very first.

The winter proved to be one of the most severe on record. The Raritan was completely frozen, and the inhabitants employed its icy surface as a public highway. For almost four months, it was more used than any road in the county.

Washington was confined to his camp at Morristown, but he was not unwakeful to surrounding scenes. As soon as the ice had formed between Staten Island and the mainland to such a state of solidity as so admit of the passage of wagon and cannon, he thought of renewing the design entertained in the preceeding autumn, of attacking the British Post on the Island. The enterprise was committed to Lord Sterling, but the British were early apprised of his intentions, and the attempt failed—failed indeed, in considerable loss to the American forces.

Discontent arising out of the scarcity of food was so rife in the camp at Morristown and so much magnified by reports that that the British were led to think a favorable sentiment towards them was growing up, and even that a return of the people to their former allegiance was possible. This idea led to an effort to aid the supposed malcontents. Gen. Kniphausen crossed over to Elizabethtown point, and marched as far into the country as Springfield on the sixth and seventh of June ; but he soon found how terribly he had mistaken the temper of the people. Gov. Longston called upon the militia to rally for defense, and the British troops were so perpetually harrassed, that they soon only thought of revenge and a safe return. The village of Connecticut Farms, with the church was given to the flames, and Mrs. Caldwell, the

wife of the Rev. James Caldwell, of Elizabethtown, was shot in her own house with her children around her and a babe in her arms! It was claimed to have been an accident, but it appears to have had the impulse of revenge growing out of disappointment, as its inciting cause. The incident had a large share in embittering the feelings of the inhabitants of the State against their enemies, and inflaming their determinate resistance. After a short skirmish at Springfield, Kniphausen made his way back to Staten Island.

Almost simultaneously with this raid into New Jersey the French auxiliaries arrived at Newport, July 18th.—Washington immediately planned an attack upon the city New York in conjunction with the French forces; but so many squadrons of British ships arrived on the coast about the same time that the French were confined to the harbor of Newport, and unable to co-operate with the army at Morristown. While Washington was absent at Hartford in consultation with Count Rochambeau, Arnold found an opportunity to attempt his long meditated treason of betraying West Point, the key to Highlands, to Sir Henry Clinton at New York. How it was defeated and how the amiable and accomplished Majre Andre lost his life in consenting to be concerned in it, is too well known too require to be told here. Early in December the army went into winter quarters: the Pennsylvania troops near Morristown, the New Jersey troops on Pompton Plains, and the New England troops near West Point, on both sides of the North river.

The season of 1781 opened in gloom. The disappointment from the unavailable nature of the French aid was deep! Almost the only hope from abroad seemed to be confined to the disposition which had been manifested by the Hollanders, to unite in assisting the American patriots Many in the army were still discontented, mostly from a misunderstanding in regard to the proper interpretation of the terms of enlistment, which read "for three years or during the war." The soldiers claimed discharge at the end of "three years," but the officers insisted on the other clause "or during the war." The Pennsylvania line broke out in

open revolt and marched from Pompton as far as Trenton, where they were met by President Reed and induced to submit on certain specified conditions—having rejected with disdain the treacherous overtures made to them by Sir Henry Clinton. They had suffered indeed, but they were not justified in attempting to redress their own grievances in such a summary way, and the revolt was crushed before it had time to spread among the corps from the other States.

Washington still adhered to his plan of beseiging the city of New York, and capturing Sir Henry Clinton and his army. The French troops were even ordered to Newport early in June in anticipation of such a movement, but in August this idea was abandoned, and instead of it, Lord Cornwallis was besieged in Yorktown ; the French fleet under Count De Grasse blockading the port and Washington surrounded him on the land side. On this occasion all the troops in New Jersey, as well as those at West Point, hastened to the scene of active operations. This was the last time that any large military force was seen in Somerset County, and then only on its southern borders. It is said Clinton might easily, by a sudden attack, have interrupted this movement, greatly to the relief of Cornwallis, had he not been deceived by letters upon which he relied, and which represented it only as a feint ; the real point of intended attack being himself in the city of New York.

Finally on the sixth day of October the troops were all present, and the first cordon was drawn around the devoted city, and on the 19th after a defense of thirteen days, Cornwallis capitulated ; but not before almost every gun on the British fortifications had been dismounted and all their batteries silenced. The surrender included Yorktown and Gloucester Point, with their garrisons and the shipping in the harbor, and the seamen, the army, the arms, the military chest, with all the stores and ammunitions.

It was a proud day, and it virtually ended the war. A show of hostilities was indeed kept up and skirmishing continued for a few months longer in the vicinities of

Charleston and New York, but every one saw that the ruin brought upon the British interests, by the loss of such an army as that which surrendered at Yorktown, was final. The state of feeling in England, forbade even an attempt to repair it.

During the summer of 1782 the border warfare, especially in Monmouth county, was exceedingly bitter, but in our own county, there was comparative quiet ; and at once peaceful industry and commerce revived. The feeling of the people really grew stronger in their determination to stand out to the last. They hoped for peace, but they felt resolute to endure to the end and to conquer it.

On the 30th of November, 1782, the Americrn Commissioners, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, John Jay and Henry Laurens, signed a treaty in the city of Ghent, which acknowledged the Independence of the Thirteen United Colonies, and gave them peace. The treaty however, did not take effect until the Twentieth of January, 1783, when the general pacification was to go into operation. These tidings, so happy and so ardently desired, were first communicated by LaFayette, in a letter received on the Twenty-fourth of March. Early in April a copy of the treaty arrived, and on the the nineteenth of that month, 1783, a proclamation suspending hostilities was issued. It was done, but no one thought then, what a great thing really had been effected. How great the event really was we scarcely yet know.

CHAPTER VIII.

WASHINGTON AND DR. HARDENBURGH.

In the winter of 1778 and 1779 while Washington had his quarters in Caleb Miller's house, Dr. Hardenburgh was residing next door in the parsonage. A friendship grew up naturally between them as the result of almost daily intercourse. They were, in many respects, men of the same spirit, although one was a warrior and the other a minister of the gospel of peace. Dr. Hardenburgh had not yet lost his church, and there can be little doubt that Washington, sometimes at least, attended divine service on the banks of the Raritan in the house which was afterwards burned, for he was a respecter of religion and careful not to seem to neglect, far less to oppose it.

The fruits of this intercourse and friendship are seen in several public orders issued to the army while at Raritan. His general orders quartering his army, dated September 17th, 1778, cautioning against unnecessary injury to persons or property belonging to the inhabitants, and forbiding peremptorily any trespasses—again, on October 28th, an order against horse-racing; and what marks the coincidence and the inspiration, is that the minutes of the church show a protest about the same time written no doubt by Dr. Hardenburgh against "cock-fighting, shooting matches and horse racing,"—still again, November 19, 1778, another series of orders directed against the prevailing practice of profane swearing, reprobating and forbidding it in the army. Attest this.

But there are two other papers arising out of this intercourse and friendship, which we have reserved for this

place. The first is entitled an address of the Minister, Elders and Deacons of the Dutch Reformed Church of Raritan, presented to His Excellency. George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the Armies of the United States of North America, and is as follows :

May it please your Excellency—

We, the Consistory of the Dutch Reformed Church of Raritan, beg leave to embrace this opportunity to declare to your Excellency the real sentiments of our hearts.

As we would wish to adore the directing hand of Providence, so we are bound to acknowledge that spirit of patriotism, which has induced your Excellency to sacrifice the swe ets of an affluent domestic life, to put yourself and your most amiable and virtuous consort to repeated and afflicting separations, for no other reason than defending the just rights and liberties of our bleeding country. Here, sir, permit us to express our grateful sense of your Excellency's care and vigilance for this part of our country in the trying winter of the year 1777, when after two memorable victories, your Excellency by masterly strokes of generalship defended us by a handful of undisciplined militia, against the depredations of a formidable army of our enemies, collected and quartered in our vicinity. We can not help admiring that gracious Providence which has made the success and victories of your arms to bear down the remembrance of discouraging disappointments ; and we cordially hope that the agreeable prospect of a speedy termination of the present troubles, in favor of our distressed nation, may support your Excellency under the present weight of perplexing cares and concerns, inseparable from your station.

Though the quartering of armies among citizens is always attended with unavoidable inconveniences to the latter ; yet we are agreably constrained to acknowledge that your Excellency has been pleased to take particular care, throughout the course of this last winter to prevent and alleviate these calamities, as much as Possible. Your Excellency's concern for the support of civil government in its just and equitable execution, has endeared you to our fellow citizens ; and the strict discipline which the

gentlemanly officers under your Excellency's more immediate command at this time, have observed not only at head quarters, but also throughout the body of the army, we are persuaded has merited the approbation and applause of the good people of this neighborhood. We beg your Excellency will do us the justice to believe us sincere, when we declare our affection and true regard for your person, and the deep sense which we entertain of the important services your Excellency and the gentlemen officers under your command, have rendered their country in the course of this severe contest! And we assure you, sir, that we shall deem it our duty and privilege to make our warmest addresses to the God of armies, for the preservation of your health and your invaluable life—as also that of the brave officers and soldiers of your army—praying that indulgent Heaven may direct your counsels and crown your exertions in the ensuing campaign, with such victories and success, as shall compel a haughty and relentless enemy, to consent to the terms of a safe, honorable and lasting peace.

Signed by order of the Consistory.

JACOB R. HARDENBURGH, V. D. M.

June 1, 1779.

This is quite a courtly document indeed; but it expresses the sentiments of a noble man, in a case where patriotism and humanity were both concerned. Its warmth breathes not only admiration, but friendship, and it forms a reminescence of those times, the value of which cannot be well overestimated. It proves the friendship of Washington and Hardenbugh.

This interesting document was succeeded the next day, June 2d, 1779, by an answer, of which the following is a literal copy, dated at Camp Middlebrook, and addressed:—

Gentlemen: To meet the the approbation of good men cannot but be agreeable. Your affectionate expressions make it more so. In quartering an army and supplying its wants, distress and inconveniance will often occur to the citizens. I feel myself happy in the consciousness that these have been strictly limited by necessity; and in your opinion of my attention to the rights of my fellow citizens. I thank you gentlemen sincerely for the sense you enter-

tain of the conduct of the army, and for the interest you take in my welfare. I trust the goodness of the cause and the exertions of the people, under Divine protection, will give us that honorable peace for which we are contending. Suffer me, gentlemen, to wish the Dutch Reformed Church at Raritan a long continuance of its present minister and consistory, and all the blessings which flow from piety and Religion.

I am, &c., GEORGE WASHINGTON.

A noble answer, showing how fully he appreciated the noble sentiments to which he was responding. These documents are alike honorable to both parties, and form a precious memorial of the times, and of the sentiments and men who uttered them.

We append to these interesting memorials of our revolution two other public documents which seem to find here their most appreciated place.

GENERAL ORDERS, MORRIS HOUSE, July 29, 1779.

Many and pointed orders have been issued against that unmeaning and abominable custom of swearing, notwithstanding which, with much regret, the general observes it prevails, if possible, more than ever; his feelings are continually wounded by the oaths and imprecations of the soldiers whenever he is in hearing of them.

The name of the Being from whose bountiful goodness we are permitted to exist and enjoy the comforts of life, is incessantly imprecated and profaned in a manner as wanton as it is shocking. For the sake therefor, of religion, decency and order, the General hopes and trusts that officers of every rank will use their influence and authority to check a vice which is as unprofitable as it is wicked and shameful. If the officers would make it an invariable rule to reprimand, and if that does not do, to punish soldiers for offenses of this kind, it would not fail of having the desired effect.

The following minutes of a public meeting at Millstone, are interesting as evidence of the pressure of the burdens of the war, and the patriotic spirit in which it is proposed to meet them:

At a meeting of the electors of the County of Somerset, pursuant to notice by advertisement on Thursday, 3d inst., at the Court House of said county.

The business of the meeting being introduced and discussed, the following resolutions were adopted :

Whereas, The concurrence of a variety of causes. the bills of credit emitted under authority of the United States in Congress assembled, have greatly depreciated in their value, and in addition to the quantity circulating, will tend to increase such depreciaton ; therefore

Resolved, That a petition be presented to the legislature, requesting them to make application to Congress on behalf of this State, that the emission of bills of credit be henceforth discontinued.

Resolved, that the Legislature be requested to make application as aforesaid, that a plan be adopted and recommended for a general limitation of prices throughout the United States, according to which, such prices may be diminished slowly from the present time or at stated periods and by small differences, until the quantity of money be reduced by taxation to what is necessary for a circulating medium.

And, Whereas, taxation is the most natural and beneficial source from which to derive the supplies necessary for suppoting the army and carrying on the war,

Resolved, That the Legislature be requested to make application as aforesaid that requisitions of taxes be henceforward made on the States for the above purposes ; and that to avoid as far as possible the expense of purchasing in the modes hitherto practiced, and the necessity of such large circulations of money through the public treasury, a just quota of provisions, forage and other necessaries for the army, be laid upon each State, in such kind as they are severally suited to produce, to be paid in the way of tax at regulated prices by those who raise them, while those who do not, pay a fair proportion in money.

Resolved, That it be expressed to the Legislature as the sense of this meeting, that on levying all future taxes and aids for the use of the State and Union in general, the assessments be made according to the value of all property

possessed by each individual ; it being reasonable that persons should be taked for their money, their income, the faculty and means of acquiring property, or for any estate whatsoever

Whereas, There is great reason to believe that many persons employed in various branches of the public department of the United States are guilty of mismanagement and fraud, in the execution of their trust and applying the public money, and there being no ready and regular mode presented by public authority, of which such as are disposed may avail themselves, to furnish the necessary information to those who have the power to correct such abuses and thereby prevent unnecessary increase of the public burdens,

Resolved, That the Legislature be requested to direct some convenient and adequate means of collecting and transmitting to Congress, or to such Board or Committee by them appointed, as may be adequate in point of jurisdiction, or to the executive power of the State in cases where that is competent, all such authentic evidences and documents as can be procured, that the guilty may be punished and the faithful servants of the public may be rescued from that indiscriminate censure which the bad and unworthy bring upon all, and that we will exert our utmost endeavors for effecting so laudable a purpose.

Whereas, virtue and good morals are not only productive of individual happiness, but have a great and extensive good effect upon the political state of every government when they are cultivated,

Resolved, That we will by our example and influence endeavor to promote these, and will look upon it as the course of duty to support and strengthen the arm of the civil authority in detecting and bringing to deserved punishment all such as are guilty of profanity, immorality, extravagance, idleness and dissipation, of extortion, sharping and oppression, and of all such practices as tend to the unjust advantage of individuals and detriment of the community.

Ordered, That a representation and petition to the Legislature be drawn up pursuant to these resolutions and signed by the chairman, and that the representatives of this county be requested to lay the same before the respective house.

Extracted from the minutes of proceedings and published by order.

WM. C. HASTON, Chairman.

CHAPTER IX.

THE LADIES IN THE REVOLUTION.

The sufferings of the poor soldiers in their log huts on the south side of Kimbal's Mountain, west of Morristown, during the dreadful winter of 1780, when food was so scarce and many of them so poorly and scantily clothed, excited a wide spread and deep sympathy in the public mind. It manifested itself most prominently and perhaps the earliest among the Ladies of Philadelphia. They aroused themselves immediately, and began by forming an association for the sufferers relief. "Never, says one, was the energy of a noble and genuine sympathy more nobly expressed than by the noble matrons of the Quaker City on this occasion. Mrs Esther Reed, the wife of General Joseph Reed, though feeble in health and surrounded by a numerous family, entered with hearty zeal into the service, and was by the united voice of her associates placed at the head of the Society. Mrs. Sarah Bache, daughter of Dr. Franklin, was also a conspicuous actor in the formation of the association and in carrying out its plans. All classes in the city became interested and the results were glorious. All ranks of society seemed to have joined in the liberal effort, from Philis, the colored woman, with her seven shillings and six pence, to the Marchioness DeLafayette whose husband contributed in her name one hundred guineas in specie, and the Countess de Luzerne who gave six thousand dollars in Continental paper. Those who had no money to contribute gave the labor of their hands in plying the needle ; and in almost every house the work went on." It was charity in its genuine form, and from its purest source—the voluntary outpourings of the heart. It

was not stimulated by the excitements of our day—neither fancy fairs nor bazars had anything to do with it. It was not pleasure and conspicuity that they sought, but the comfort of the suffering patriots in the winter huts, scantily fed and clothed, who appealed to their noble and loving hearts ; and they met, counselled, acted and brought them relief. The American women working for the comfort of a starving American patriot army was indeed a noble exhibition of patriotic kindness. That army needed relief and they provided and brought it. They went out and solicited money and other necessaries from door to door, stating what it was for, and carried it to the army directly as the result of their activity. They had in the first instance given their trinkets and jewelry and wrought with their needles, and when the need was more pressing they claimed from the public what they themselves were unable to supply.

The Marquis DeChastellax who was in Philadelphia while this work was in progress, was delighted with the spirit excited by it. In describing a visit to several of the ladies, he says : "We began by Mrs. Bache. She merits all the anxiety we had to see her, for she is the daughter of Dr. Franklin. Simple in her manners, like her respectable father, she possesses his benevolence. She conducted us into a room filled with work, lately finished by the ladies of Philadelphia. This work consisted neither of embroidered tambour waistcoats, nor net work edgings, nor of gold and silver brocade—It was a quantity of shirts for the soldiers of Pennsylvania. The ladies bought the linen from their own private purses, and took a pleasure in cutting them out and sewing them themselves. On each shirt was the name of the married or unmarried lady who made it, and they amounted to 2200."

The result of this sympathy and industry was great and very timely. The aggregate amount of the contributions in the city and county of Philadelphia was 9,500 dollars in specie value; added to this was a princely donation from Robert Morris of a ship fully loaded with military stores and clothing which had just arrived.

It went further. The ladies of almost all the populous

towns emulated the kindness of their sisters in Philadelphia. We are most interested in what was done in our native State, and we give a remeniscence of the patriotism of the ladies of Trenton. We record it with great pleasure as another proof of the important influence which our dear wives and daughters always give in trying times, of their tender hearts and their devotion to the right. It consists of an article, printed in the New Jersey Gazette at Trenton, July 5, 1780, to the following effect, showing that all the kindness exhibited for the suffering soldiers was not confined to Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, but New Jersey furnished also ladies who seconded the efforts of those of Pennsylvania with all their might.

"The ladies of Trenton, New Jersey, emulating the noble example of their patriotic sisters of Pennsylvania, and being desirous of manifesting their zeal in the cause of American liberty—having this day assembled for the purpose of promoting a subscription for the relief and encouragement of those brave men in the continental army, who, stimulated by example and regardless of danger, have so repeatedly suffered, fought and bled in the cause of virtue and their oppressed country, and taking into consideration the scattered situation of the well disposed throughout the State, who would wish to contribute to so laudable an undertaking, have, for the purpose of the convenience of such and the more effectually to carry their scheme into execution, unanimously appointed Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Dickonson, Mrs. Forman and Miss Cadwallader a committee, whose duty it shall be immediately to open a subscription and correspond with the ladies hereinafter named of the different counties throughout the State, requesting their aid and influence in the several districts; and in order the more expeditiously to carry the scheme into execution, the ladies now met, have taken the liberty to solicit the interest of the following ladies in promoting said subscription, viz: For the county of Hunterdon, Mrs. Vice President Stevens, Mrs. Judge Smith, Mrs. Charles Cox, Mrs. R. Stevens, Mrs. Hanna, Mrs. Loweriey, Mrs. I. Sexton, Mrs. B. Van Cleve, Mrs. Col. Berry, Mrs. Dr. Barnes; County of Sussex, Mrs. Councelor Ogden, Mrs. Colonel

Thompson. Mrs. Maj. Hoops, Mrs. T. Anderson ; County of Bergen, Mrs. Col. Dey, Mrs. Fell, Mrs. Kuyper, Mrs. Erkskine, Mrs. Maj. Dey ; County of Morris, Mrs Councelor Condict, Mrs. Parson Jones, Mrs. Col. Remsen, Mrs. Van Zandt, Mrs. Carmichael, Mrs. Col. Cook, Mrs. Faesch ; County of Essex, Mrs. Governor Livingston, Mrs. C. Camp, Mrs. Dr. Burnet, Mrs. Elisha Boudinot, Mrs. Hornblower ; County of Middlesex, Mrs Neilson, Mrs. Councelor Dean, Mrs. George Morgan, Mrs. Col. Neilson, Mrs. Neils, Mrs. Daniel Marsh ; County of Monmouth, Mrs. Gen. Forman, Mrs. Col. Scudder, Mrs. Newell, Mrs. Peter Forman, Mrs. Jacob Wyckoff, Mrs. Peter Covenhoven ; County of Burlington, Mrs. Col. Cox, Mrs. Councelor Tallman, Mrs. Col. Borden, Mrs. Secretary Reed, Mrs. Capt. Reed ; County of Somerset, Lady Sterling, Mrs Gen. Morris, Mrs. Col Martin, Mrs. Attorney Gen. Paterson, Mrs. R. Stockton ; County of Gloucester, Mrs. Col. Clark, Mrs. Col. Westcot, Mrs. Col. Ellis, Mrs. Col. Hugg, Mrs. Bloomfield ; County of Cumberland, Mrs. Councellor Buck, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Elmer, Mrs. Bowen, Mrs. Fithian ; County of Cape May, Mrs. Councelor Hand, Mrs. Whilden, Mrs. Townsend, Mrs. Heldreth, whose well known patriotism leaves no room to doubt of their exertions in the promotion of our undertaking, so humane and praiseworthy, and that they will be happy in forwarding the amount of their several collections either with or without the names of the donors, which will immediately be transmitted by Mrs. Moore Forman, who is hereby appointed Treasuress, to be disposed of by the Commander-in-Chief agreeably to the general plan.

As the ladies here would wish to expedite the good work as much as possible they have appointed Mrs. Dagworthy of Trenton, their Secretary, who will receive and answer all letters that the ladies of the different counties may think proper to favor her with on the occasion, and to furnish them with proper subscription papers as soon as possible. In Spark's correspondence of Washington there is printed a letter from Mrs. Dagworthy of Trenton, transmitting to him the sum of 15,408 dollars, the amount collected in New Jersey up to July 17, 1780. This is not to be

understood as the whole amount collected by the exertions of the "Ladies of New Jersey;" Subsequent to this date, the good work is known to have progressed, ceasing only when the occasion for exertion had ceased. We are not, therefore, able to say what were all the fruits of this movement. No record of it seems to have been made at the time, which has been transmitted to the future. It is however, an understood tradition, that large supplies were sent in, both in provisions and clothing, as well as in money, to relieve the pressing necessities of the army and encourage the men to remain steadfast in their efforts to free the country from its oppressors. Indeed, when has the sympathy of the female heart been appealed to in vain. The women of the Revolution were the noblest of their sex. and the encouragement which they gave, on prominent occasions and in all proper ways, had no small share in sustaining the patriotism of their husbands and brothers, in the dark hours of the protracted contest. Many instances are remembered when it displayed itself in beautiful firmness or in tenderest sympathy, and the history of those times will not be written until these things find a pen to record them. There were many as noble and devoted women as Mrs. Reed and Mrs. Bache, in the other States of the Union, and it has been a real pleasure, to rescue from an obscure place the action of the ladies of New Jersey, and give it at least a temporary resuscitation in these remeniscences of our Revolution. It is a valuable record in many ways. It presents to us the names of ladies who were prominent in their day and who wielded an influence from which good was expected, and we are glad to know them.

CHAPTER X.

SERVITUDE AND SLAVES.

We give some notes on the subject of servitude and slaves.

Servitude was early introduced in New Jersey in at least three different forms. Which was the worst form we shall not determine, but leave it as an open question for each one for himself to decide.

In the first instance the Proprietors sent over their servants to occupy and improve their lands for them. Among the individuals who are most conspicuous for their efforts in this direction, were Lord Neil Campbell, William Dockwra, Thomas Pierson, the Scotch Proprietors, Capt. Andrew Hamilton, Gov Gawen Lawrie, Robert Fulton and David Mudie. These servants, perhaps, did not absolutely forfeit their personal liberty by their engagements with their masters, but still they were in all essential particulars "bond men," held in servitude and controlled entirely personally and socially, by those who had brought them into the province for their own profit. They were slaves in everything but the name ; and their relation to their superiors was unquestionably a form of what we may call "white slavery," and continued for life ; and in some instances included their children also. But as it had no legal sanction in the laws of the Province, it ceased of itself from causes which the authors of it could not control.

At a later period, many persons from the "Palatinate" came to New Jersey as well as New York, under what has been called the "apprentice system." The captains of the vessels who brought over the emigrant, did so under a bond signed by the emigrants, which gave the captain liberty to

sell his time on his arrival in America for his passage money. This included fewer or more years, as the purchaser might be willing to accept ; and in this he was guided by the age, the health and the working power of the apprentice or emigrant. Many of these apprentices became prosperous citizens after serving out their time. Some of them even died wealthy. But while they were bound, their condition did not differ essentially from that of a slave. Nor were they better treated, except in one particular, having relation to their color. They were not negroes ; and were not kept with them in social equality.

The third form was negro slavery. The earliest instance which we have seen of negroes being held in bondage as slave in New Jersey, is that of Col. Richard Morris, of Shrewsberry, who is noticed as having sixty or seventy slaves about his "iron mill and plantation," as early as 1680. Whether Codrington, or Royce, or Palmer or White, had any negro slaves on their plantations in Somerset County, we have not ascertained. We do not think the fact has been noted anywhere, and yet we hardly think there can be any doubt of it ! At all events, the first inhabitants on the Raritan, all had slaves as early as 1685 or 1690 The slave trade was active in the harbor of New York, and cargoes direct from the African coast, were sold to the planters in the various parts of the State. As a general thing these slaves were humanly treated, well clothed, and not over-worked. In the various homesteads, children were born and reared, until, sometimes, the negroes in them were more numerous than the whites. There was a difference in social position, and in the duties and employments assigned to them respectively, but this was nearly all the distinction. Authority was exercised by the one, and obedience exacted from the other. The two races were kept distinct when eating and sleeping, as well as in the employments and occupations of daily life. They were not clothed alike. They did not frequent the same places as amusement or pleasure might incline. But notwithstanding all these things, it would not be true to state that both were not comfortable in every essential particular necessary to the well being of the individual man ;

and as the effect of all this there was a great deal of harmony of action between them ; even in the most instances, a mutual and zealous co-operation in business and in social necessities in all the important matters of life, and also so much amity and attachment in all actions, that serious collisions seldom occurred. The slaves, in most instances would have defended their masters and their master's household with their lives. Indeed it is remarkable in how few instances theft, or arson, or murder occurred, as the effect of having such persons in so many families. Pilfering in various forms, there always was, but it was of a petty character, and perpetrated generally for the purpose of obtaining some luxuries or personal indulgences, not allowed them, because not beneficial or unnecessary to their comfort,

We have notice of a case of arson succeeded by a public execution, and also one of the murder of one slave by another. We have obtained the relation of another of a white man by his slave, as the consequence of which the slave was burned at Millstone, then the county seat in the presence of a large concourse of negroes, who were expressly brought there to witness it. We give the narrative as it was written out for us. The same thing also occurred in other places about the same time.

Jacob Van Nest was murdered in what is now Branchburgh township, by his black man, somewhere about the year 1753. The occasion is said to have been, taking a leaf of tobacco out of the negroe's box by his master as he was going up the kitchen stairs. Mr. Van Nest had been out on horseback and returned home at night. The negro stood inside of the stable door, and struck him with an axe as he came to put his horse in his place. He then turned the horse loose with the saddle under him, but buried the body under some leaves and brush near the house. He was an athletic fellow, and when taken had on his person his master's pocket knife. He was purposely sent out of doors to bring in a back log, and was then taken by the officers when he could not defend himself. What form of a trial was instituted is not related, but when condemned he was publicly burnt at the stake as a punishment for his

crime. It is noticed that the effect upon the slaves present was so great that they did not eat any meat for a long time afterwards.

The property where this murder occurred is now in possession of Gilbert Kershaw, son-in-law of Andrew Hageman, who purchased the farm from Peter D. Vroom, a son of Hendrick D Vroom. The barn in which the murder was committed was removed to make room for a better some thirty years since. Hendrick D. Vroom who possessed it, married Jemimah the only daughter of Jacob Van Nest, and came into its possession in right of his wife. Jacob Van Nest was a son of Peter—the son of that Peter who originally purchased the 600 acre tract of land from the Proprietors first north of the junction of the Branches, and was in his day one of the most popular men in Somerset County, if we may judge so from his representing the county almost constantly in the Legislative Council and in other public trusts during his life time.

The peaceful condition of the negroes, notwithstanding these exceptionable executions, is universally attested; and yet there had been a sort of rebellion among them along the Raritan in 1734, in consequence of which, one at least, if not more was hung. It is called a "rising," and the design was to obtain their freedom, kept from them, as they believed, contrary to the express directions of the king; and the plan was to murder all "the whites," and then join the Indians in the interest of the French, but it failed to do any real harm or have any results. That slaves were numerous in Somerset is not to be questioned; nor is it doubtful that as a general thing they were humanly treated; and yet circumstances also show that crimes were committed, and their punishment was meeted out to them swiftly and not always considerately. Burning was not an exceptionable mode. At Perth Amboy two were burnt within two weeks of the the time after which the crime—the murder of their mistress—was perpetrated; and as in the case of Millstone, the negroes were all summoned from their homes to witness it, under the belief not yet exploded, that the effect of it would be salutary.

There seems to be, and there no doubt was, a connection

between these transactions, and the famous "negro plot" in New York, in 1741. The public mind had been greatly excited with fear by the developments then made and the instinct of self-preservation is not apt to be, either tolerant or considerate. They believed in the wholesomeness of terror as a conservator of the peace of society, and employed it freely.

Another "rising" among the negroes was feared in 1772, but precautionary measures were adopted and the excitement passed off. In connection with this disturbance an "abolitionist" appeared, and in the public prints and otherwise, urged the propriety of the passage of a law by the Parliament in london, obliging every master to free his slave and secure his being sent back to his native place. It made the slaves for a time dissatisfied and dangerous, but it effected no good—rather the contrary.

An act had been passed as early as 1713 levying a duty on the importation of negroes, but it seems not to have been enforced. The tariff was forty shillings in East New Jersey, and £6 in West New Jersey. This inequality in levying the tax was obviated by another act in 1767, and again by another act in 1749, which was in force at the time of the revolution.

When Sunday Schools were introduced the negroes were largely benefitted by them and received the religious instruction given in them extensively. In christian familes, also, they were brought under christian influences, and many of them became members of the different Christian Churches. When properly cared for at home, they maintained generally a creditable course of conduct; but like the missionary converts in heathen lands, for the most part in time of temptation they were but weak christians, and liable to fall under the passion engendered by strong drink; and yet there is no doubt, many of them were truly pious, and sought to be better than they were. All the churches in the country had them among their members; but in the old Church of Raritan, after the Great Revival there was the largest number. At one communion season, sixty eight colored persons came down from the galleries and sat down at the table, spread then, according to older

customs, in the middle aisle of the church. Most of these are now no more, but during their life they maintained a consistent demeanor and died in the hope of a better condition.

We make these references because we think them of practical importance in the future! Slavery is happily abolished in our beloved state; but the questions, having reference to the future of the descendants of slaves, are yet living questions; and their solution will press upon the future, more than they do upon the present. To ignore them is not more proper for us, than it is for the welfare of the unfortunate creatures, to whom they relate. God has been in this part of history, as in all others, and his designs, when wraught out, will be worthy of his wisdom and purity. We rest our anxieties all upon this foundation.

It ought to be noted also as an evidence in favor of the gentleness and amenity of domestic slavery in our country that when the slaves were invited by the British in the revolution, to abandon their homes and seek refuge in the armies, so few of them took advantage of the opportunity to abscond. If there had not been attachment on their part, to those whom they served, it would not have been so. There were, in fact slaves enough in the country to have decided the contest against us, if they had generally entered the army of our enemies. The Indians were deceived into activity, and fought bravely for their natural enemies, but the slaves remained in quietness; aiding only as their attachments influenced them to do—and for the most part favored those who had been called their tyrants and oppressors. Their course indicated clearly what they thought, and what in fact was the truth. They would not trust strangers as against their national protectors and friends; and who will say it was not the course of prudence and wisdom?

The first Legislative action looking to the abolition of slavery in New Jersey, occurred on the February 24th, 1821. It determined that the children of all slaves in the state, born after July 4, 1804 should be free—the males at 25 years and the females at 21 years. Under this wise

and safe provision the evil ceased of itself, so imperceptably and gradually, that no interest or feeling was in any way disturbed by it. The sentiment of Somerset county was largely in favor of this law, and rejoiced in the effects of it upon an unfortunate race of human beings, whose happiness has been too much the sport of unprincipled politicians. They had treated them humanely while in bondage and they rejoiced to see them making successfully the attempt to provide for their own well being.

It will always be accounted as a special honor that Dr. Finley, a Somerset man, was the first to move in the formation of the American Colonization Society ; an institution which has already done so much for the colored people and for Africa, but whose work is just beginning to show its real grandeur, and to demonstrate its immense importance in the developments of the plans of mercy to this our world. It will christianize Africa and save at least a remnant of her children given over to bondage, from all extermination.

CHAPTER XI.

HISTORICAL HOUSES.

We cannot, in our new country, make any pretentions to the possession of historical localities, such as abound in England, Scotland and on the continent of Europe, generally. We have, as yet, no "hoary antiquities" to boast, no castellated crags or hill-top forts and strong-holds. Comparatively, we are but of yesterday, and know nothing; and yet we are beginning to possess some things in which we may take a little pride—a very little, perhaps—on account of the historical associations connected with them. We have, on this account, ventured to name a few historical houses in Somerset County. Notice has already been taken of Kell's Hall, (Archibald Campbell's house), Phil's Hill, (Philip Van Horn's house), the Codrington house, the old house of John Campbell on the river side, just above the Bound Brook turnpike bridge. There are others besides these around which memories cluster, also, which will live long—long after the houses themselves have mouldered into dust and are visible no more.

The old Abraham Staats house, just below Bound Brook on the east side of the turnpike and near the river, in which Baron Steuben had his winter quarters in 1778—9, stands yet in a comfortable state of preservation. Here that noble Prussian, whose love of liberty induced him to give the aid of his personl influence to our almost fainting cause, slept, and thought, and planned, during those long winter nights, when hope had hardly yet dawned upon the struggling efforts for American liberty. His dignified man-

ners, his splendid gold medal set in diamonds, a present from old Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, designating the order of "Fidelity," are visible to our imagination when we visit the sacred spot; General and Mrs. Washington coming to dine with him, and other gentlemen and ladies accompanying them—the entertainment of "the Bar," given by the American officers, when the tables were spread in a grove near by, all give the old Staats house an abiding interest in future times. This was early in June, 1779, just before the encampment at Middlebrook was broken up, and was a great display of its kind. Yes, the old Staats house is "an historical house."

We append the following account of the Unveiling of the Steuben Monument, September 30, 1873 :—

Large delegations from near Utica, with several representatives of the press and German societies of New York, went to Remsen and Steuben this morning to be present at the unveiling of the Steuben monument. A line of wagons nearly three miles long, extending from Remsen to the monument, were furnished by farmers for the convenience of visitors. The Citizens' Corps, of Utica, guarded the speaker's stand at the monument. About 4,000 persons were present. Mayor Butterfield, of Utica, was the chairman, and prayer was offered by the Rev Owen F. Perry, after which followed the presentation of the monument to the people of America, by Carl Sixtus Kapf, of New York, on behalf of the Steuben Monument Association. As Mr Kapf concluded the ceremony of presentation, the clouds cleared away for an instant, and a single shaft of sunshine fell on the monument. Ex-Gov. Seymour received the monument on behalf of the people, and addresses were made by Ellis H. Roberts in English, and W. Zarth, in German. The benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Dr. Brown, of Hamilton College. The ceremonies having ended, the party went on an excursion, and on the return attended a pic nic at Trenton Falls. There were no accidents, and the day was pleasant though cloudy. The excursionists returned to Utica at forty-five minutes past six P. M.

The house in which Hendrick Fisher resided below

Bound Brook, on the road to Middlebush, is yet in a good state of preservation, and will long be remembered as having a memory not to be lost. We have given a brief account of him in another place.

Passing over "the mountains we visit Lord Sterling's mansion" house, on the flats south-east of Baskingridge, built about 1761, as a summer retreat, but adopted afterwards as a permanent residence. Sterling, when coming to Baskingridge, had just returned from Europe, and told the following anecdote of his having been introduced to a Mrs. Drummond, by her husband, at a dinner, after he had informed her that he had that day invited "a native American" to dine with him. When the introduction took place the good woman, mystified by the words "native American," exclaimed in broad Scotch, "Mie God! the awnimaal is wheete." She expected to see the "copper color" of an American Indian. Sterling resided at Baskingridge improving his manor and developing the manufactory of iron in Morris county, until the war of the revolution called him to the field. The place was long known as "Sterling's buildings."

Another is the house in which Gen. Charles Lee was taken prisoner by Col. Harcourt, leading a scouting party of British cavalry on the 11th of December, 1776. It was then called "Whi e's Tavern," and kept as a public house by a widow lady named White. It is the last house on the south end of the main street of the village, and since destroyed. Lee was blamed greatly for his dilatoriness and disregard of orders. He was completely surprised when he imagined himself secure; taken out of his bed and hurried away in a most unceremonious manner as a prisoner, into the British camp. Though exchanged in 1778 for General Prescott, he never recovered the lost confidence resulting from his capture, and was finally court-martialed for his conduct in the battle of Monmouth.

In Bedminster Township, on the south bank of the North Branch, half a mile below Kline's Mills, and formerly the residence of Job Lane, Esq., stands the house in which resided the Rev. Mr. McCrea, minister of the Presbyterian Church of Lamington, and the father of Jane McCrea,

murdered by the Indians near Fort Edward, July 27, 1777, when Burgoyne was on his way to Saratoga, and defeated and surrendered there. The Rev. Mr. McCrea had previously lived in a house on the west side of Lamington river, which was removed to be joined to another, and formed a part of the old mansion, since burned, in which the Rev. Dr. Messler was born. The kitchen standing a few feet from the mansion house was always said to have been Rev. Mr. McCrea's study. The romance connected with Jennie McCrea's death, gave it a wide notoriety, and had no little influence in exciting indignation against Burgoyne for employing the savages against the peaceful inhabitants of Washington county; many of whom were in fact "royalists," and even Captain David Jones, the lover of Jennie, and the McNiels, in whose house she was staying, were all inclined to the British side. Mrs. McNiel, was in fact, a cousin of General Fraser, of the British army, killed at Saratoga, and strongly sympathized with Burgoyne.

The Miller house in Somerville, built by William Wallace, and inhabited by General and Mrs. Washington, in the winter of 1778–9, and kept in exactly the state in which it was then, is a proud historical monument. How many fond memories cluster around it; and what a pity, that that large old white-oak tree, under which Mrs. Washington so often sat in the spring of 1779, was sacrificed to "the woodman's axe," It would have been a precious relic now, if it had been spared from destruction.

The old parsonage in Somerville, built in 1750–1, by Rev. John Frelinghuysen, with bricks imported from Holland; in which Dr. Hardenburgh resided during the whole of the revolution, sleeping with a loaded gun beside his bed, and where Gen. Washington so often visited him and his accomplished wife. What a pleasure to recall these communings between two such noble men! What an interest they would inspire now, had they been preserved! We should probably be entirely satisfied in reference to the truly religious character of the Commander-in-Chief, if we had a narrative of these conversations. Dr. Hardenburgh probably knew him more intimately than any other minister of the gospel, except his own pastor in Virginia. Here

Hardenburgh, Leydt, Van Nest, Jackson and others, studied theology with J. Frelinghuysen. It was, in fact, the first Theological Seminary in the Dutch Church.

The Paterson house, unfortunately raised to the ground, where Mrs. Stephen Van Rensellaer spent her youth, and which she remembered so fondly; where Aaron Burr, Gen. Morton, of New York and John Young Noell studied law, and probably also, Frederick Frelinghuysen, Andrew Kirkpatrick, and George M. Troup, Gov. of Georgia. It ought to have been spared by the spirit of improvement. In the Old Countries they do not sacrifice such precious relics, but keep them as a sacred trust; and so we should do—our pride ought to be their protection; for the memories around them are precious. How many years Gov, Paterson lived on the Raritan is not known to the writer. He removed after the war to New Brunswick, and died there in 1806. His name is one of our proud and most favored possessions.

On Rock Hill stands at the present time the former mansion of Judge Berrien, in which Washington wrote his farewell address to the army, Congress being in session at Princeton, Nov. 2d, 1783. The President of Congress, it is said, addressed him in a complimentary manner, to which he replied, and then retired. A house was provided for him at Rocky Hill, where he resided, holding conference from time to time with committees and members of Congress and giving counsel on such subjects as were referred to his consideration. A large part of the officers and soldiers had been permitted, during the summer, to retire from the army on furlough, and Congress issued a proclamation on the 18th of October, discharging them from further duty, together with all others who had been engaged to serve during the war. The army was, in effect, disbanded. A small force only remained, consisting of such troops as had been enlisted for a definite time till the peace establishment should be organized. This house is a landmark which ought to be preserved. Time is working changes enough without destroying these old homes of history. This proclamation was followed by washington's farewell address to the army and then his circular to the States. To his cordial and affectionate thanks for the devotedness

of the officers and soldiers to him through the war, and for the manner in which they had discharged their duty, he adds reasonable advice as to their conduct in resuming the characters of private citizens and in contributing to the support of civil government. "Let it be known and remembered," said he, "that the reputation of the Federal Armies is established beyond the reach of malevolence; and let the consciousness of their achievements and fame, still incite the men who composed them, to honorable actions; under the persuasion that the private virtues of economy prudence and industry, will not be less amiable in civil life, than the more splendid qualities of valor, perseverance and enterpise, were in the field. Every one may rest assured that much very much of the future happiness of the officers and men will depend upon the wise and manly conduct which shall be adopted by them, when they are mingled with the great body of the community. Although the General has so frequently given it as his opinion, in the most public and explicity manner, that unless the principles of the Federal Government were properly supported, and the powers of the union increased, the honor, dignity and justice of the nation will be lost forever; yet he cannot help repeating on this occasion so interesting a sentiment, and leaving, as his injunction to every officer and every soldier, who may view the subject in the same serious point of light, to add his best endeavors to those of his worthy fellow citizens towards effecting these great and valuable purposes, on which our existence, as a nation, so naturally depends.

On the east side of North Branch there stands a brick house in which resided Capt. Isaac Brokaw, killed in the battle of Germantown. To this house Washington went while he was living in Somerville, on a visit of condolence to the widow. We have always thought this incident one of the most beautiful exhibitions of his most extraordinary life. What a heart the great man had! and he could well conceive of the grief of a lone widow, made so in one of his battles, and ride several miles to see her and express his sympathy for her great loss. Of what other hero is the same tenderness recorded? The house is now owned

by Mr. Nevius, whose wife is a great-grand daughter of Captain Brokaw.

On the south side of Raritan near the junction of the North and South Branches, is the former residence of Col. Peter D. Vroom, and the birth place of Governor P. D. Vroom. The old house remains just as it was in early days, only an addition has been annexed to it. It deserves to be remembered among the venerated localities of our beloved country.

While General and Mrs. Washington were living in the Miller house, Gen. Knox and Gen Green and their wives were also quartered in the vicinity of Somerville; but where exactly, we have not been able to ascertain.—There were officers at Van Horn's, near Middlebrook, at Van Veghten's on the Raritan, and at the Dumont house owned at present by Mr. Gildersleeve, Capt. Esty recollected carrying messages from the latter place often to Washington, but did not state from whom they came. It is remembered that one of them was a French officer, but the names are lost.

For a short time, during the Revolution, Queen's College was located at the John Protest Dumont House, near the junction of the Branches in 1779, and Col. John Taylor, who was the principal instructor in the institution, wrote from thence Sept. 25, excusing his delay in rendering a full report of the officers and the condition of the various regiments in the State, on account of his duties in the College, and the imperfect reports he had received from subordinates. Indeed, the College had for several years quite a perapatetic character, being temporarily located in more than one place. At one time, at least, it was at Millstone.

Then we are reminded of Tusculm, the residence of Dr. Wetherspoon, and Morven, the seat of the Stocktons for three or four generations, standing yet as land marks in the flowing tide of time.

The Kirkpatrick house at Mine Brook built by David Kirkpatrick, as if it was to stand forever with solid two feet stone walls, and a double white oak floor of two inch planks, is also worthy of remembrance.

The Linn house, the old Boyd house at Lamington, neglected and almost in ruins, where so many young men were trained for college by the good Domine before acadamies were known ; Dr. Finley's house and the Southard house in Baskingridge, the Ludlow house on Long Hill, the Frelinghuysen house at Millstone, and that in which Dr. Lawrence Vanderveer resided in Roycefield, and the Schenck house below Millstone, are all worth remembering by the generation to come.

I am assured also, that there was in a very early day, a mill on the Raritan just above the Flemington Railroad Bridge, and below it was the ford used in crossing until the covered bridge was erected. There was also a dam in the river a short distance above the landing bridge, the only one in the river, which gave dissatisfaction to the inhabitants above because it prevented their shad fishing in the spring. With these local remembrances we close our notice of the interesting localities and historical houses.

CHAPTER XII.

ROADS.

There was an Indian path, very much travelled by the aboriginees, leading from Minisink Islands in the Delaware below Port Jeryis, to Shrewsbury and the ocean side. It passed north of Morristown, crossed the mountains west of Springfield, followed Rahway River, and passed the Raritan at a place known as Kent's Neck, about four miles west of Amboy. But it was not in any sense a road.

There was a kind of road or way when the country was discovered, between the Raritan and Delaware, known as the Indian Path, which seems to have been formed by the aboriginees for the purpose of transition to the sea shore. It diverged from the present road about 300 yards west of the mile run brook, and ran in a more northerly direction between the present French and Somerset streets, passing in front of Mr. French's residence to the river, a short distance above the Ferry and below the ford, where the Indians had long crossed at low tide. The French house stood on the right side near where the residence of Judge Terhune is now located. He was a highly respectable citizen, but his house was humble and unostentatious, consisting of wood, long and low, and of one story only. Indeed there were few which aspired so high as have added to them a second story. The well which supplied water is the same that contains to day the pump in Washington street, a few feet west of George street in New Brunswick. It stood as late as the year 1812. Philip French owned in 1745, 400 acres of land in Franklin Township, and was a prosperous opulent farmer. Just beyond the mile run brook in early

days, a Public House was in existence call French's Mile Run House. The earliest names which occur as land owners along this road are John Van Houten, Tunis Quick, Dollius Hageman, Frederick Van Liew, Jacob Bennet, Abraham Bennet, Fulkard Van Nostrand.

Along the Indian path the first settlers in Franklin Township purchased lands and built houses. When it began to be passable for vehicles we are not able to state, probably soon after 1699. In that year there is an account of a traveller named Edmonson, who attempted to pass from the Raritan to the Delaware, and procured an Indian guide to conduct him, but he lost his way, and after a fatigueing march through the forests found himself some where beyond Six Mile Run, overtaken by the closing day, and after encamping all night in the woods, succeeded in effecting a return to Innian's Ferry the next day. Later, Kalm, a Sweedish traveller, coming from Princeton says: "the country is pretty well peopled; there were however, great woods in many places. The ground was level and did not seem to be everywhere of the richest kind. Almost near every farm house were great orchards; the houses commonly built of timber and at some distance from themselves stood the oven for baking, consisting commonly of clay.

Previous to 1675 and 1677, when the legislature adopted some general regulations for the opening of roads, the only road laid out properly within the limits of New Jersey. appears to have been that by which the inhabitants at New Amsterdam communicated with their settlements on the Delaware. It ran from Elizabeth Point, or its neighborhood, to where New Brunswick now stands; and was probably the same as that since (widened and improved) known as the old road or Indian path between those places. At New Brunswick the river was fordable at low water, and the road thence ran almost in a straight line to the Delaware, (above where Trenton is now situated,) which was also fordable. This was called the "upper road," which branched off about five or six miles from the Raritan, took a sweep toward the east, and arrived at the Delaware at the site of the present Burlington. These roads

however, were very little more than foot-paths, and so continued for many years, affording facilities for pedestrians and horsemen principally. Even as late as 1716, when Inian's ferry had been established at New Brunswick for twenty years, provision was only made, in the rates allowed by the assembly, for 'horse and man,' and 'single person.' Previous to that time, the road had been improved eastward, and was considered the main thoroughfare to Pennsylvania ; for, in 1695, the Inkeepers at Piscataway, Woodbridge and Elizabethtown, were taxed for five years, to prevent its falling into decay. The sum required at that time, was only ten pounds. An opposition road was opened by the Proprietaries, in the hope of drawing the principal travelling to Amboy, their seat of government ; but without success. They express a wish to Deputy-governor Laurie, in July, 1683, that 'it might be discovered whether there may not a convenient road be found between Perthtown (Perth Amboy) and Burlington, for the entertaining of a land conveyance that way.' This was done by Laurie the ensuing year, and he connected with the road a ferry boat, to run between Amboy and New York, 'to entertain travellers.' Finding however that the other road continued to be preferred, Gov. Basse, in 1698, was directed to bring the matter before the assembly, and have an act passed that would cause the public road to pass through the port-town of (Perth Amboy,) from New York and New England to West Jersey and Pennsylvania ; but Basse's authority was of such limited duration that nothwas done.

"Such were the two routes travelled between New York and Philadelphia, under the Proprietary Government ; but no public conveyance for the transportation of either goods or passengers existed in either place. One Delaman was permitted by Gov. Hamilton to drive a wagon on the Amboy road about this time, but had no regular prices or set time for his trips.

In April, 1707, the assembly, enumerating their grievances to Lord Cornbury, complained that patents had been granted to individuals to transport goods on the road from Burlington to Amboy, for a certain number of years,

to the exclusion of others ; which was deemed not only contrary to the statute respecting monopolies, but also destructive to that freedom which trade and commerce ought to have. The governor, in his reply, gives us an insight into the facilities afforded by Delaman's wagon. After stating the difficulties which had previously attended the carriage of goods upon the road, he says, "at present, every body is sure, once a fortnight to have an opportunity of sending any quantity of goods, great or small, at reasonable rates, without being in danger of imposition ; and the settling of this wagon is so far from being a grievance or a monopoly, that by this means and no other, a trade has been carried on between Philadelphia, Burlington, Amboy and New York, which was never known before, and in all probability never would have been. As none of the grievances suffered under Lord Cornbury's administration were removed until his recall, in 1710, it is probable this wagon continued to perform its journey once a fortnight till then, if not longer. Soon after, however, the road seems to have been more open to competition.

"The first advertisement respecting the transportation on this route, which I have met with, is in Andrew Bradford's Philadelphia Mercury, of March, 1732—33. It is as follows :

"This is to give notice unto gentlemen, Merchants, Tradesmen, Travellers, and others, that Solomon Smith and James Moore of Burlington, keepeth two Stage Wagons intending to go from Burlington to Amboy, and back from Amboy to Burlington again, 'Once every Week' or offt'er if that Business presents. They have also a very good store house, very comodious for the Storing of any sort of Merchants Goods free from any Charges, where good Care will be taken of all sorts of Goods."

About this time, also, a line by the way of New Brunswick commenced, and in 1734 another *via* Bordentown was established, running from South river, the proprietor of which would be at New York once a week, if wind and weather permit, and come to the Old-slip.

In 1744 the stage wagons between New Brunswick and Trenton ran twice a week.

In October, 1750. a new line was established, the owner of which resided at Perth Amboy. He informed all gentlemen and ladies who have occasion to transport themselves, goods, wares, or merchandise, from New York to Philadelphia, that he had a stage boat well fitted for the purpose, which, wind and weather permitting, (that never-forgotten proviso,) would leave New York every Wednesday for the ferry at Amboy on Thursday, where, on Friday a stage wagon would be ready to proceed immediately to Bordentown, where they would take another stage boat to Philadelphia—nothing being said of the time when they might expect to arrive there. He states, however, that the passages are made in forty eight hours, less time than by any other line. This was probably the case, for the route was so well patronized that, in 1752, they carried passengers twice a week instead of once, endeavoring to use people in the best manner, keeping them, be it observed, from five to seven days on the way.

The success of this line seems to have led to an opposition. in 1751, originating in Philadelphia, which professed to go through in twenty-four or thirty hours, but which nevertheless, appears to have required the same number of days as the other. Great dependence was placed upon the attractions of the passenger boat between Amboy and New York, described as having a fine commodious cabin, fitted up with a tea table, and sundry other articles.

In 1756, a stage line between Philadelphia and New York, via. Trenton and Perth Amboy, was established, intended to run through in three days. This was followed in 1765, by another to start twice a week ; but nine years had worked no increase of speed. The following year a third line of good stage wagons, with the seats set on springs, was set up, to go through in two days in summer, and three in winter. These wagons were modestly called 'Flying Machines.' The title soon became a favorite with all the stage proprietors. These lines ran, I believe, by the way of Blazing Star Ferry and Staten Island, and soon put an end to the transportation of passengers on the old Amboy route.

From 1765 to 1768, attempts were made by the legisla-

ture to raise funds, by lottery, for shortening and improving the great thoroughfares ; but without success. Gov. Franklin, alluding to them, in a speech to the assembly, in 1768, states that even those which lie between the two principal trading cities in North America, are seldom passable without danger or difficulty. Such being the condition of the roads it was a great improvement to have John Mersereau's 'flying machine,' in 1772, leave Paulus Hook three times a week, with a reasonable expectation that passengers would arrive in Philadelphia in one day and a half. This time, however, was probably found too short, for two days were required by him in 1773—74.

The mails, being carried on horseback, moved at this time with rather greater speed than passengers ; but they had been a long time acquiring it. To Col. John Hamilton, son of Gov. Andrew Hamilton, of New Jersey, (himself at one time acting governor, as president of the council,) were the colonies indebted for devising the scheme by which the Post-Office was established. This was about the year 1694. He obtained a patent for it, and afterward sold his right to the crown. It is presumed that it was soon made to carry the mails regularly ; but speed was little regarded.

In 1704, in the pleasant month of May, a New York paper says, the last storm put our Pennsylvania post a week behind, and is not yet com'd in.

In 1717, advices from Boston to Williamsburg, in Virginia, were completed in four weeks, from March to December, and in double that time in the other months of the year; but there is a probability that the mails south of Philadelphia did not continue to be carried regularly until some years later.

About 1720, the post set out from Philadelphia every Friday, left letters at Burlington and Perth Amboy, and arrived at New York on Sunday night; leaving there Monday morning, on its journey eastward.

In 1722, a Philadelphia paper states that the New York Post was three days behind his time, and not yet arrived.

In 1729, the mail between the two cities went once a week in summer, and once a fortnight in winter; and this

continued to be the case till 1754, when Dr. Franklin became superintendent, and improved the condition of the Post Office materially. In October, notice is given that until Christmas the Post would leave the two cities three times a week, at eight o'clock, A. M.; making it thirty three hours After Christmas, being frequently delayed in crossing New York Bay, (the route being via. Blazing Star ferry,) it would leave only twice a week. Further improvements were made in the following years, and in 1764, 'if weather permitted,' the mails were to leave every alternate day, and go through in less than twenty-four hours; and such was the rate at which they travelled until the revolution put a stop to their regular transmission.

In 1791, there were only six Post-offices in New Jersey—Newark, Elizabethtown, Bridgetown, (now Rahway,) Brunswick, Princeton, and Trenton. Somerset seems to have had no mail facilities at all. The total of the receipts, for the year ending October 5th, 1791, was $530, of which the postmasters received $108.20—leaving $421.80 as the nett revenue.

The first road along the Raritan branced off from what we have called the "old road" at New Brunswick, and followed the north side of the river up to the junction of the two Branches, from which it ran west to New Hope, on the Delaware. Below Bound Brook its location has not been altered in any essential particular up to the present time; but the opening of the New Jersey Turnpike led to its being closed westward of Bound Brook. Its location was south of the turnpike all the way between Somerville and the turnpike gate at Bound Brook—just north of the farm houses on the banks of the river; and it came into Somerville where the shop of Leonard Bunn still stands; passed quite close to the front of the Brick Church, and went north of the houses in Main Street, crossing the turnpike again where John Whitenack's shop was since built, and so continued up until near Raritan, where the present road is located. Opposite the mansion of the late Gen. John Frelinghuysen it threw off a branch which ran to the Mills at North Branch, and on to Easton. How soon, after the first families settled on the Raritan, this

road was opened we are not informed. It was probably a gradual affair. The earliest legislative action in reference to roads in Somerset County which we have seen was in 1694 ; and it refers to a previous action of the same character, by which John Royce, Peter Vaness and John Tunison were appointed commissioners of highways, in the place of several who had died; and it was enjoined upon them not to change the localities of roads without necessity, and to lay out and open new ones where required. These acts probably mark the time when what were really roads, first began to be formed for the convenience of the residents of Somerset County.

There was a road at any early day from New Brunswick to Millstone by way of Middlebush; and the road from Bound Brook to Pluckamin was also opened before the Revolution. From the Raritan road there also branched off another which crossed the river a little west of the old church, and went to Millstone. On this road the first bridge across the Raritan was built, some time before the Revolution, but what year we have not ascertained. This bridge was situated some distance below the site of what we now call "the old bridge." The church stood in the second field east of the present road, not near the river, but on the high ground north of it. By this bridge Washington's army crossed after the battle of Princeton on their way to Pluckamin; but the exact line of march we are not able to point out ; if by the usual public highway then it must have been through Somerville, along the road to the mountain by Fritt's Hotel. The road from the upper part of the village is later in time and it could not have been by this, because not then in existance

The Landing bridge was begun previous to 1772, as is evident from the fact, that in that year, an act was passed to enable the inhabitants of Middlesex and Somerset to tax themselves to complete that bridge, said to have been "already begun." These bridges continued for many years to be the only points of passage along the river ; the other places of crossing were fords. The New Jersey Turnpike built their bridge about 1809, and the "covered

bridge," at first a "chain bridge," was erected in 1815 or 1816.

How the first settlers made their way up to Bound Brook and Somerville, we are left to conjecture. It may have been on horseback, and it may have been by means of canoes or small boats ; both were used in transporting their produce to a considerable extent in early times ; and in winter they had a splendid road on the ice and used it to their comfort and advantage. Wheat and corn are known to have been brought down, even out of the South Branch in boats in the early days, when the water in the river was full,

The necessity of the case, made the work to be done, difficulties notwithstanding.

The road from Brunswick to Pluckamin ought to be memorable for a Revolutionary incident, which, singularly enough, has found no record in any history of those times. We refer to a visit of ceremony and congratulation made to Major McDonald, of Pluckamin, by a company of mounted men from Gen. Howe's army at New Brunswick. It must have been in the autumn of 1776 or the spring of 1777. As a matter of precaution, on their way up, they threw out videttes on both sides of the road from Bound Brook upward ; but they were not molested until they arrived at "Lafferty's Hill " immediately east of the village, when they were fired upon by some person or persons concealed in the woods on the mountain side, and one of the party was wounded. This attack incensed them greatly and when they arrived at the hotel in Pluckamin, then kept by Christian Eoff, they were very violent and noisy, and forcibly possessed themselves of some of the sheets from the beds in the house, which they tore up for bandages for the wounded soldier, Having provided for his immediate wants, they repaired to Major McDonald's house, and saluted him It is understood that he had been an officer in the British service, in his early life, and was living here, probably on half pay. He received the compliment, and to show his appreciation of it, rolled out a barrel of whiskey from his cellar, and gave them such refreshments as could be extemporized for the emergency. After tasting the

"apple jack" and consuming the bread and cold ham offered to them, they again mounted rather hastily, calling in their videttes as they proceeded on their return. At Bound Brook, a few men had collected, but making a rush, they passed that point in safety, and reached the camp at New Brunswick without any serious molestation The fact was, that the inhabitants had suffered so severely from the British foraging parties, in the autumn, winter and spring of 1776 and 1777 that they were afraid to molest any company of military men, for it only provoked them to inflict increasing damages. The people were at their mercy and could only endure. The time had not yet arrived for them to avenge their injuries but it came ; and before the year 1777 closed, Gen. Howe had evacuated New Brunswick, leaving Somerset County to return no more forever. The question of where was the McDonald House, seems to be settled by the fact that he is represented as owning a Mill on Chamber's brook. This Mill stood east of the little bridge over Chamber's brook on the road along the mountain from Somerville to Pluckamin. It seems to have been afterwards called the Lafferty house.

CHAPTER XIII.

WASHINGTON IN SOCIAL LIFE.

When the Pennsylvania troops revolted on the 21st of June, 1783, the Congress was in session at Trenton ; and the disaffected men, three hundred in number, marched thither, surrounded the State House, placed guards at the door, and demanded a redress of their grievances within the space of twenty minutes, at the peril of having an enraged soldiery let in upon them. But Congress was firm in the pressing emergency, refused to act under restraint, declared that they had been grossly insulted and adjourned to meet in Princeton.

On the 26th, after the mutiny had been quelled, they re-assembled there, holding their sessions in the College buildings. Thither Washington was summoned from Newburgh to consult with them on important matters relative to the close of the war. Leaving General Knox in command of the army, he repaired to New Jersey, in obedience to this request, accompanied by Mrs. Washington and a part of his military family. He fixed his quarters at Rocky Hill, in a house on the east side of the Millstone river, about one-eighth of a mile from the present village, then the residence of Judge Berrian, a description of it has already been given. Here he remained until November, when he returned to Newburgh, preparatory to the entering of the army into the city of New York after its final evacuation by the British troops, on the 25th of November 1783.

While residing in this house Washington was in the habit of riding in company with some of his aids into Princeton almost every morning, for the purpose of confet-

ence with Congress, on the many new and important questions, which pressed for a solution in the existing emergencies; and as he had always, after such conference, the leisure of the whole day to dispose of, he indulged himself in social intercourse with the different families residing in the village and in its vicinity! Among these was that of Mr. John Van Horn, a wealthy and intelligent farmer living near his quarters at Rocky Hill.

Washington frequently after his morning ride, called on Mrs. Van Horn, and spent an hour in conversation with her and the ladies of the family. He delighted in this way to unbend himself from the dignity of commander in chief and give play to his social spirit; and it is sufficiently attested, that grave as he was in his public life, there could be no more fascinating gentleman in the social circle, than he, on such occasions, showed himself to be.

On one of the mornings when he called on Mrs. Van Horn, a ludicrous incident occurred, the description of which has been preserved by Dunlap the painter, in his "Reminescences of Washington." He was a mere youth at the time, and had taken board for a few weeks at Mrs. Van Horn's, at Rocky Hill. His object in visiting Princeton was to take the portraits of some of the members of Congress; and he found the farmer's house and table, most appropriate and convenient both to his means and to the leisure which he required, in order to be better able to secure the needed progress in his work. We shall now let him speak in his own words, because no others could more graphically describe the scene. It throws at least a new gleam of light upon the character of the man in whom all feel so deep an interest; but who is not fully and familiarly known, even by those who have been most careful in studying the numerous biographies which have been written of him. Circumstances not unfrequently reveal us to ourselves, and they do so also to others. Washington at Van Horn's is a new revelation of the hero and the sage. Let us hear Dunlap:

"Before I left Princeton for Rocky Hill, I saw for the first time the man of whom all men spoke—whom all wished *to see*. It was accidental. It was a picture. No

painter could have grouped a company of military men better, or selected a background better suited for effect. As I walked on the road leading from Princeton to Trenton, alone, for I ever loved solitary rambles, ascending a hill, suddenly appeared a brilliant troop of cavaliers, mounting and gaining the summit in my front. The clear autumnal sky behind them equally relieved the dark blue uniforms, the buff facings and glittering military appendages. All were gallantly mounted—all were tall and graceful—but one towered above the rest, and I doubted not an instant, that I saw the beloved hero. I lifted my hat as I saw that his eye was turned toward me, and instantly every hat was raised and every eye was fixed on me. They passed on and I turned and gazed as at a passing vision. I had seen him; although all through my life used to "the pomp, pride and circumstances of glorious war"—to the gay and gallant Englishman, the tartared Scott, and the embroidered German of every military grade; I still think the old blue and buff of Washington and his aids, their cocked hats worn side long, with the union cockade—their whole equipment, as seen at that moment, was the most martial of any thing I ever saw.

A few days after this incident I took up my abode at Mr. John Van Horn's by invitation, within a shord distance of the head quarters of the commander-in-chief. He had frequently called when returning from his ride and passed an hour with Mrs. Van Horn and the other ladies of the family, or with the farmer if at home. I was of course introduced to him. I had brought with me materials for crayon painting and commenced the portrait of Mr. and Mrs. Van Horn ; these were admired far beyond their merits and shown to all visitors. I had also with me a flute and some music books. One morning, as I copied notes and tried them, the General and suite passed through the hall, and I heard him say "the love of music and painting are frequently found united in the same person." The remark is common place, but it was delightful to me at that time.

The assertion that the great man never laughed, must have arisen from his habitual—perhaps his natural reserv-

edness. He had from early youth been conversant with public men and employed in public affairs—in affairs of life and death! He was not an austere man, either in appearance or manners, but was unaffectedly dignified and habitually polite. But I remember, during my opportunity of observing his deportment, two instances of unrestrained laughter. The first and most moderate was at a "bon mot," or anecdote from Judge Peters, then a member of Congress and dining with the General; the second was on witnessing a scene in front of Mr. Van Horn's house; which was, as I recollect it, sufficiently laugh-provoking! Mr. Van Horn was a man of uncommon size and strength, and balky with all. His hospitable board required that day, as it often did, a roasting pig in addition to the many other substantial dishes, which a succession of guests, civil and military put in requisition. A black boy had been ordered to catch the young porker, and was in full but unavailing chase, when the master and myself arrived from a walk. "Pooh, you awkward cur," said the good natured yeoman, as he directed Cato or Plato (for all the slaves were heathen philosophers in those days), to exert his limbs—but all in vain—the pig did not choose to be cooked. "Stand away," said Van Horn, and throwing off his coat and hat, he undertook the chase, determined to run down the pig. His guests and his negroes stood laughing at his exertions, and the pig's manifold escapes. Shouts and laughter at length proclaimed the success of 'chasseur,' and while he held the pig up in triumph, the big drops coursing each other from forehead to chin, over his mahogany face, glowing with the effects of exercise, amid the squealing of the victim, the stentorian voice of Van Horn was heard, "I'll show you how to run down a pig," and as he spoke he looked up in the face of Washington, who with his suite had trotted their horses into the court-yard unheard amid the din of the chase and the shouts of triumphant success. The ludicrous expression of surprise at being so caught, with his attempts to speak to his heroic visitor, while the pig redoubled his efforts to escape by kicking and *squeaking*, produced as hearty a burst of laughter from the

dignified Washington, as any that shoook the sides of the most vulgar spectator of the scene."

An anecdote of a diff·rent character is told of the Father of his Country, while he was living in New York, in a house on Broadway opposite the Bowling Green. He was in the habit of walking in the garden for recreation, with his hands crossed behind him, and looking down on the ground before him, in a serious and pensive mood. Among the officers who were in attendance on him and admitted to terms of intimate and confidential course, there was one who proposed as a joke, to com· up behind him and as he stooped somewhat, to leap upon his back. A bet was made that no one among them dared to attempt such a thing. The young officer accepted it; and the next day when Washington had again c·mmenced his walk up and down the garden path, he stole softly up and leaped upon his back, and clasped his arms around his neck—he straightened himself up, shook the intruder off, and facing him gave him such an annihilating look that the young man fled in terror; and afterward averred that the indignation expressed in Washington's countenance frightened him to such a degree that no amount of money could ever induce him to attempt a similar familiarity. If the pig chase made him laugh heartily, the unwarranted familiarity called forth something which sent terror into the heart of the thoughtless young man. His indignation was as prompt and decisive as his mirth. He was in fact not a tame man in any moode.

CHAPTER XIV.

THE OLD RED SCHOOL HOUSE.

In the period which elapsed before the Revolution, but little progress had been made in providing for the proper education of the young, in Somerset County. Circumstances were such as to make any proper provision almost impossible. The population was sparse, the people were poor and had to struggle hard to build themselves houses and cultivate and improve their homesteads. Hence, school houses were few, and it was no common thing for children to be obliged to walk two and three miles in going and returning from school. Even when they had a school to attend, only the mere rudiments, such as reading, writing and arithmetic, were taught even in the best schools. The teachers were generally emigrants from Ireland, England, and Scotland, and they took upon themselves the task of giving tuition mostly as a mode of self support, in preference to manual labor, or mechanical industry. New England had not yet sent forth her young men and maidens to enlighten their country and occupy its places of influence.

There is evidence however to show that if learning was not deep, it was good as far as it went, and answered substantially the purposes of the honest yeomanry of that day, and of their children. There was not much improvement before the commencement of the present century, but edu*cation* was not entirely neglected, and there was some

progress. The population of our country was almost entirely Dutch and Presbyterian, and the early teachings at home and in the church led to the desire for further attainments.

The good old custom, inherited from their ancestors, of making the Sabbath evening a season for reciting the catechism, was almost universally prevalent, and then when the pastor came on his accustomed rounds to hear the portions committed to memory, and explain the doctrines taught in them, there was an interest which brought the old as well as the young to hear and profit. It was a blessed custom, and tended largely to perpetuate the truth and preserve the unity of the Church. Our youth may learn more of the Bible; but they fail to attain that systematic knowledge of what the Bible teaches, which those who carefully committed the catechism were sure to possess. It was laying deep and broad a foundation for faith and practice, which certainly made many eminent Christians—men who were largely concerned in preparing for the more extended privileges which we enjoy.

At the period to which we refer, school houses were not only few in number, but very uncomfortable and ill contrived, if indeed there was anything like contrivance about them. It is impossible at this time to give all the different localities in Somerset County, and we must confine ourselves to a few of those of which we have the best information either by history or tradition.

There was a school house at Raritan, now Somerville, in which English was taught until the Academy was built in 1801, after which the English school was transferred to that building. The last teacher before its removal was a Mr. Tenard, who gave an evening exhibition in the Court House, which was the first of its kind, and the wonder of all the people. There was a school house also at Bound Brook, Pluckamin and near the Two Bridges, of which no trace now remains. There was one on the mountain road north of Somerville, which remained standing yet as late as 1840. It was the scene of an outrage during the Revolution, when a tory had given him a coat of tar and feathers by some enthusiastic patriots. It was an outbreak of

temper, excused in some measure by the times and circumstances, but still an outrage of personal and individual liberty, which cannot be justified There was a fourth one on the south side of the river situated on a little knoll on the roadside, near the point where the properties formerly of Jacobus Quick and Peter Dumont joined. It was small and unpretending and was abandoned as a school house toward the latter part of the last century, and occupied for some years afterward by a poor and worthy family of the neighborhood. It is understood that at an early day one William Parrish taught in this house, and from papers once in our possession, it would seem that he was a man of considerable attainment. Owing to changes continually occurring in the neighborhood, it was concluded to build a new school house about a mile further west, so as to accomodate the people from what is now called the South Branch and east as far as the farm of Mr. R. Veghte on the river below, and also the back neighborhood. In that district there was at that time a large number of children.

A little strip of land between the road and the river bank on the north end of the farm then owned by John Van Middlesworth, was chosen for the site of the new house. Near it on the east was a small stream, tributary to the Raritan, known by the Indian name of Paw-ne-pack. It was then a constantly running brook, taking its rise in the hills and large tracts of woodland to the south. A fine row of cedar and hemlocks graced the river banks to the west for some distance above, and on the opposite side of the road was a row of walnut trees in full growth. The space between the river and road was large enough for a pleasant play ground, and the urchins of that day enjoyed their ball plays quite as much as the base ball champions of the present time can do.

This new school house was built about the year 1795. It was perhaps 24 feet square, having one room only, and one door. On one side of the room there was a spacious fire place, which would hold wood of almost any length. The furniture of the room was of the simplest kind. Plain wooden benches, without backs, sufficed for the younger scholars. A long table with benches on each side was de-

voted to such as could write and cipher, while near the place for the teacher were two square tables of different heights at which were placed the little ones who were beginning to write. In outward appearance the house was in advance of all others in that vicinity. It was built of good materials, and more than all was painted red, and with white casings to the doors and windows From this it took the name of "the Red School House." In later years, when the generation which was first gathered within its walls had passed into the busy crowd of men and women, and those who had built the house had disappeared, it was known as the "Old Red School House," and by that familiar name we propose to speak of it

It was opened for scholars, (or as we would now say, inaugurated) in the spring of the year above referred to. The youngest scholar was called on to say the first lesson in it, and it is from this source, that most of the particulars in this paper have been derived. John Warburton better known as "Master Warburton" presided in the school. He was an Englishman by birth, and was supposed to have been attached to the British army in the war of the revolution, and to have remained here after the close of the war. He had taught in the neighborhood at the old school house, and was respected and well known to parents and children. He was a man of more than middle age, of careful habits and respectable deportment, decided in the government of his school, sometimes hasty, but generally pleasant and encouraging. He was kind and affectionate to the younger children and made the school attractive to them. The master was a firm believer in the efficacy of the birch when necessary. A rod nicely trimmed was kept near him as he sat in his leather seated arm chair in one corner of the room, and close by were two ferrules, a large and a small one ; the latter one having as he said a hard side and a soft side, by which he graduated or pretended to graduate his punishments. Master Warburton was not a mere pretender. What he taught was thoroughly taught, and he made no pretentions of teaching what he did not know. The English Primmer, Dilworth's Spelling book and Arithmetic, the New Testament and then the

Bible were all the books known in the school. Dilworth has long since been superseded, though as some supposed not improved on. Webster's spelling book made but slow progress in that community.

The rudiments of education had been faithfully attended to from the early settlement of the country. We have seen ancient documents, with the signatures of whole neighborhoods attached to them, and it was remarkable with what strength and boldness, the people wrote, not a marksman was found among them.

The general character of instruction throughout the community was about the same as in the Red School House. In some schools the catechism was taught, either Hellenbrook or the Westminster, but profane history, geography and mathematics were of no account, and yet the men of that day were not ignorant men. Their minds were not enlarged by much reading, but they were strengthened and built up by reading a few good books and reading them well—and by observation and thought. They were honest, industrious, faithful men, not given to strife or sedition. The impress of their character is still visible in the old population and their descendants. The parents of that day took an interest in their children's education, plain as it was. They felt it to be their duty. They selected their school masters, and attended to their moral character.

We have made great changes and improvements in our system of common school education of late years, but it is still a problem whether the abandonment of individual and parental responsibility, and holding up the idea that education is a matter that belongs to the public or the State to regulate and enforce, will bring with it the benefit so fondly anticipated by many. If we look back to the community in which stood the old Red School House for so many years, and see who they were that received their learning within its walls, we may well doubt whether sound learning has advanced as much as some imagine. The same remark may no doubt be applied to other parts of the country. The old common school, with its elementary instruction, and the pulpit, have made the people of this

country what they are. The precepts of the inspired books, which were constantly read, made impressions which were never lost. Will the time ever come when these books shall be banished from our schools.

There are some things connected with the old Red School House, which although local and personal we may be excused for noticing. Every one who has knowledge of this ancient seat of learning, associates with it the character, if not the person, of the good old master to whom we have referred, and who for years led the children up the little hill of science—for steep they certainly were not. We have spoken of him somewhat, but we could add, that he had qualities well fitted to his vocation. His great points were order and method. He allowed no sloveliness in his school. Exact himself in all that he did, he required exactness in his scholars. The writing books and cyphering books of the children were patterns of neatness.—Every line was fixed by scale and dividers, and every figure had its proper place. In this quiet way he made the children proud of themselves and of their work, and inculcated useful habits. At the call for "book" in the morning, all took their places at once. When the shadow at the door mark high "twelve" a tap of the ruler gave notice of it, and the hour-glass was turned. This glass deserves a passing notice. It was an old clumsy affair, as though made for hardships. It always stood upon the master's table, and was an object of great interest to the scholars. They all thought that by long use, the passage way for the sand had become enlarged, and that they lost at least a quarter of an hour by it. Sometimes the master, if in a very good humor, would pretend not to see that the upper end of the curious machine was empty, but generally when the last sand dropped, the call was made for books, and the lessons of the afternoon commenced.

The manners and morals of the pupils were carefully attended to. In this duty he was aided by the facility he possessed of gaing the affection, of the very young, and by setting a proper example to all.

It was the custom in early days for country teachers to board alternately, week by week, among their employers—

thus lessening the expense of education by giving free board. The practice of Mr. Warburton, in regards to this was peculiar. He lived altogether in the school house. It was his abode by day and by night, but he was supplied with food by the employers, and after this fashion: Each employer furnished him provisions for a week. On every Sunday morning he would repair before breakfast, in his best attire, which was very plain and neat, to the house of the person who was to supply him for the week, carrying with him a small sized wicker basket and a handsome glass bottle, that would hold about a quart. He would breakfast with the family, and as his coming was known, parents and children were careful to receive him very kindly. It was quite an event. After breakfast his basket would be filled with the best the house could afford, suitable for his comfort, and his bottle filled with rich milk. After a little conversation, he would take his leave and retire to his quiet home. The next morning a fresh bottle of milk would be carried to him by the children, and so he would be supplied daily with all he desired, and much more—both of meat and drink. His favorite diet was milk and brown bread. He never visited except on the occasions referred to. In the school house was a garret, which was reached through a trap door by the aid of a small ladder. In this he may have slept at times, but he had no bed, and usually slept in the school room. Two benches placed side by, with a couple of blankets, formed his resting place for many years The garret was his sanctum, and many were the conjectures as to what was in it. It was generally supposed there was money concealed some where. Once on a time the school house was left unguarded, and was entered by some country burglar. Quite a darcel of old pistareens, and quarters, and other small change was found upon the culprit, and it was said they had been discovered stowed away in little nooks and corners all around the garret where they might best be concealed Fortunately the whipping-post was in fashion in those days, and thirty nine lashes were laid on, served as a protection against future anoyance.

The old master was never known to go to church. The

school room was his temple, and many curious speculations were indulged in as to what his religion was. He had on a particular part of his table, a couple of very nice looking books, the contents of which were a mystery to all. Some supposed that as he was an Englishman, they were the Book of Common Prayer and some other good book used in the English Church, and that he worshiped according to that form, although no one seemed to know what the torm was. Among the superstitious it was reported that strange noises were heard at different times in the night, and it was even whispered by the more censorious that the old master must have some communication with evil spirits. Such imaginings, which always attach to persons who lead somewhat of a hermit life, did not effect the character of the good man. Whatever may have been his eccentricities, or his religious creed, he was a good preceptor, and respected by all who knew him, for his probity and uprightness. He had strong filial feelings, and has been known to walk to New Brunswick and back in a day to deposit in the post office a small remittance for his aged parents in England.

For a series of years the old master had charge of the children in the Red School House and its vicinity. Scarce any are left who remember him, buf his name was as familiar as a household word. The effect of his teachings will out live his memory. Late in life he left the little tenement on the river bank, and taught for a time in a school house near the old Raritan bridge. He had saved up a little property, with which he bought a few acres of land on the mountain north of Somerville There he had put up a small house, near to which was a cave constructed for his own use at particular seasons. To this place he finally retired, living a lonely life during the residue of his days. A few tried friends who had long known him attended to his wants. Nature at last gave way. His spirit departed, and he was laid to rest in his mother earth. Peace to his memory !

The school house, after master Warburton left it continued to stand on the little knoll by the road side. It was used for a time as a place to teach in. The Sunday

School of the neighborhood was for a time held in it, and then some little family would occupy it by permission of the inhabitants. But there seemed to be no one to keep it up. The paint wore off, the weather boards loosened, and all parts of it showed marks of decay. Year after year it became more and more ruinous and desolate, and there was a sympathy in many hearts attending this desolation. The hemlocks and evergreens that had adorned the river bank, were from time to time washed out by the current, until only here and there one remained. The walnut trees, with their grateful shade, wasted gradually away. The Pawnepack, from natural causes, became smaller and smaller, until it almost ceased to flow. A few years later, and the house itself disappeared, It had fulfilled its office.

If there be a gray-headed pilgrim who spent joyous days in and around it in early life, and who shall pass by it now, he will pause, while memory traces the scene as it was, and shed a tear over the sad change which has taken place. For many years to come the inhabitants of that beautiful valley will point the passing stranger to the sacred spot where in early days the fathers learned their first lessons under the good Master Warburton, and where once stood so long the Old Red School House.

We have experienced a special gratification in giving these remeniscences from the pen of Gov. P. D. Vroom of his early school days. We have a pleasant recollection of the Old Red School House, as it stood 46 years ago in its deserted dilapidation, a monument of the past. It had an important influence in its time. Men and women were educated in it who acted prominent parts in active life. If it were proper we could give a list of names which would be recognized by the present living as conferring no small honor on this humble Seminary, because it was the place where they acquired the rudiments of a culture which gave them prominence and influence in their subsequent life.

CHAPTER XV.

SOMERVILLE.

There were at least three farm houses in the vicinity as early as 1683, yet it is not one of the oldest towns in the county. It was first known as Raritan, then the Court House. The present name when first proposed was not popular. It was considered to be too fine, or fanciful, and it took a long time to reconcile the popular mind to its use. Bound Brook, Millstone and Pluckamin are all older in point of time. In the times of the Revolution there were only two houses within the present limits of the village. One is now the eastern part of 'Fritt's Hotel,' the other the west end of what was long called the 'Lower Tavern.' Beside these the Tunison family lived in a house were John Garretson, Esq., now resides. There was also a house near the Cemetery in which the Fulkerson's had lived at an earlier day, a house part of which remains, where Col. Southard once lived; the Parsonage built by Rev. John Frelinghuysen in 1751 and 1752, a small stone house where Caleb Miller lives, which was removed and the present house built in 1777 or 1778 by William Wallace, and not yet finished in the winter of 1778 and 1779, and a small house owned by Derrick Middagh, where John M Mann formerly resided. A little later than the time we are speaking of a two story house was built where Dumont Frelinghusen now resides and was occupied by

Sheriff Hardenburgh. This house remained until 1834 or 1835 when it was removed by Rev. Charles Whitehead and the present mansion erected in its place. This is about what there was of Somerville when the Revolution opened. After the destruction of the Court House at Millstone by Col. Simcoe, Oct. 18, 1779 the seat of justice was removed to Somerville. In 1789 affidavits in the Orphan's Court were taken by Frederick Frelinghuysen as Surrogate at Millstone. In June, 1794 there was a Court of Common Pleas setting in Bridgewater, the Judges being, Robert Stockton, Robert Blair, Nicholas Dubois, John Stryker and Archibald Mercer. The removal must have taken place between these two dates.

At first the courts were held in a small building, which had stood on Mount Pleasant and had been known as the court 'martial house,' and after its revoval stood on the corner at present occupied by the store belonging to Mrs. Reed. It was removed and fitted up at the joint expense of the Freeholders and the Consistory of the Church, at Raritan. After being abandoned by both the County and the Church it was removed across the street and fitted up as a store house. In it for many years Mr. Latourette and subsequently William J. Hedges transacted mercantile business. It was finally taken away and the present building owned by William C. Veghte erected in its place.

The road through Somerville crossed the brook near the R. R. Bridge and entered the present street nearly where Leonard Bunn's shop was located, thence it passed near the front of the Brick Church, and onwards where S. S. Hartwell's office stood, back of all the houses in the main street and coming into it again where John Whitenack's carriage shop stands at present. The laying of the Turnpike in 1807 or 1808 was the occasion of its being changed to its present course.

Precisely where the road from Pluckamin united with the Raritan road, we are not able to say, probably where it is now, between Mrs. Reed's store and the Hotel of Jacob A. Fritts.

Precisely when the village received its present name is not known. The oldest documentary evidence dates July

18. 1801. After the Revolution the extreme admiration for everything French, excited by the aid extended to our struggling colonies in their efforts for independence, made it almost a necessity to have a "ville," attached to the name of of every town however insignificant, and so the county seat of Somerset, came naturally to be called Somville.

There was early a Post Office opened in the village kept by a Mr Meldrum, and a semi-weekly mail from New York Probably this had a final effect in bringing the name into general use. In the time of William Mann it was kept in his bar, the whole business amounting to some dozen letters a week. The first thing which really ensured its prosperity and growth, was the fact that in 1778 the Raritan Congregation determined to build their Church here. They had been without a suitable place to hold religious services in ever since November 18, 1779. Perhaps it was procrastinated by the circumstance that for some time their services had been held in the small frame building called the Court House. It had been so long deferred because the Revolutionary war left every one poor in money at least ; but now they were encouraged and determined to build a respectable house 40 feet by 60, of brick, surmounted by a cupola with a bell. It was the first church in the county pretending to anything like the same elegance and expensiveness.

Ten years more elapsed and the Freeholders of the County determined to erect a respectable Court House. The motion created great division of sentiment on the part of the inhabitants of the North and South side of the river. Meetings were held, discussions had, advice asked, but decisions could not be reached. The Board of Freeholders was equally divided. At length one of the members of Hillsborough decided the question by voting in favor of Somerville, and the work was undertaken and finished. The walls of this house still stand, and although many alterations have been made internally, and some additions externally, the building remains essentially the same as it was in the beginning. It has become one the old land marks of the old village.

Before the Court House there had been erected a building at the lower end of the village, connected with a tan yard. It was occupied once by Samuel Hall, and directly opposite to it, in early days there was a small house in which Josiah Bryan resided.

Nearly cotemporary with the building of the Court House, was the erection of the house opposite to it, by Mr. Isaac Davis, and afterwards occupied by Jacob R. Hardenburgh, Esq., as a store. Daniel LaTourette lived in it, and then for many years William J Hedges. The lot extended from the west line of Judge Van Derveer's property, to the road leading from the covered bridge. The barn which was large, was finally converted into a house and now forms a part of the County Hotel. This change was the work of Mr. LaTourette, and was effected about 1805 or 1806.

In the meantime Job Van Arsdale bought a lot and erected a small two story house, on the corner where S. S. Hartwell's residence stood. He was a blacksmith, and had his shop a little further west, and next to it Abel Stuart built a house. This house was subsequently enlarged and converted into a hotel, first kept by Meldrum, and afterwards by Daniel Sergeant. In this house the first meeting in reference to the formation of the Somerset County Bible Society convened October 1, 1816. The meeting was organized by appointing Peter B. Dumont chairman, and John Frelinghuysen secretary, and then formed a committee consisting of Rev. Peter Studdiford, Rev. John S. Vredenburgh, Rev. Robert Finley, Rev. Peter Labaugh, with Messrs. John M. Bayard, John Frelinghuysen and Peter Elmendorf to draft a constitution and report at a subsequent time! The final meeting for adopting the constitution was held in the church December 10th, 1816, a Board of Managers was then appointed for the year, viz: Bridgewater, Rev. Peter Studdiford and J. Frelinghuysen; Hillsborough, Rev. J. Zabriskie and Nicholas Dubois, Esq.; Franklin, Rev. Mr. Huntington, and J. M. Bayard, Esq.; Bernards, Rev. Charles Hardenburgh and Joseph Annin; Bedminster, Rev. Horace Galpin and Nicholas Arrowsmith; Warren, Alexander Kirkpatrick and Fred-

erick Vermeule. The Board were to serve until the third Tuesday of August, which had been fixed upon as the day for the first annual meeting of the society. In this unpretending way an organization was set in motion, which has been as a fountain of life in Somerset County ever since. The little hotel perished in the flames sometime afterwards, but the action will give its memory so much interest as to keep it bright in many coming years.

The academy was built in the summer of 1802 ; and about the same time Isaac Vactor, a tailor, built a small house nearly opposite to it, in which he resided for many years. Perhaps a year or two anterior to this a house in which Philip Tunison lived, in the lower part of the village was built. He was sexton of the church, and his widow lived there for a long time. It was removed for the purpose of opening a street only very recently. The Davenport house, in which Dr. Vredenburgh resided was cotemporary or nearly so with the last mentioned. Then, next in point of time, came the Rulofsen house, once the Upper Tavern, the Van Natta house, the George Van Neste house, forming a part of the large house second below Fritt's Hotel. There was also at the same time, a small house converted into a store, and belonging since to Henry Cook, in which Richard Compton and his wife lived. She was known as "Aunt Yauney," and kept ginger cake and spruce beer. Here the young gentlemen of that day escorted their lady loves on Sunday, during "intermission," to regale them with her savory stores. It was a noted place, and "Aunt Yauney" was a noted woman. In all the surrounding community none were more so in her day.

Cotemporary with the days of which we are now writing the Stewart house was built on South street, in which his widow and family resided until a very recent period. It is now owned by Mr. Onderdonk. Samuel Brant built a shop about the same time next below George Van Neste's house, and manufactured chairs. He was a brother of Mrs. Stewart, and a long time resident of Somerville. In 1809 Peter B. Dumont built a house opposite the hotel of Mr. Fritts ; and George McDonald erected the house next

above it, in which Gov. Vroom resided many years; and subsequently John M. Mann lived and died there.

Then next in point of time came the store and dwelling of C. G. Tunison; and Somerville began really to be worthy of its name. Those who are living can write the remaining history of its growth.

The charter for an Aqueduct Company was obtained in the fall of 1807, and an enterprise soon completed which in that day was a grand effort for the few who composed the inhabitants of our village. Water was brought in perforated pine logs from the mountain north of the town, and a fine stream could be seen constantly gushing out from a pen stock near Fritt's Hotel, then kept by William Mann, sparkling as bright and as pure as its mountain source! Unfortunately the weight of the column introduced through the logs, was too much for their adhesive properties; and a break was the consequence. These breaks soon became so frequent that the logs were abandoned and clay pipes tried without success. Then an effort was made to procure pure water by boring down deep through the red shale. The well of Ferdinand Vanderveer was selected for the purpose, and a bore of many feet made, but finally abandoned. Since this time no effort has been made to supply our village with pure water. It is one of its most important enterprises waiting completion. Half the effort made in that early day by a few enterprising men, would now be enough to remedy the deficiency. It is wonderful how content men can become, under a nuisance, when they are once accustomed to it. Water and gas are now the pressing demands of the town; and they ought to be both introduced before another year ends. It is a reproach to our enterprise that they are not; and the want of them depresses the value of our property in amount more than their cost.

The Water Power at Raritan was incorporated by an act of the Legislature, Feb. 28, 1840, by appointing John Gaston, Garret D. Wall, Samuel L. Lyman, Luther Loomis, Robert Van Rensalaer. Abraham Suydam, Rynier Veghte, Thomas A. Hartwell and William Thompson incorporators, with a capital of $200,000. This company

formed the canal from head of Raritan and commenced active operations in carrying out the plan of making, what is now the village of Raritan, a manufacturing centre; but failed. Auditors were appointed and finally the new act was obtained in which Joshua Doughty, John M. Mann, Hezekiah B. Loomis, John M. Martin, Steven B. Ransom, Edward F. Loomis, and Hugh M. Gaston are named as incorporators, and the title is changed to the Raritan Water Power Company, and is dated March 24th, 1863.

Under this act the original design has been carried out with some success and a village has grown up, which promises to be a flourishing place of business and manufactories.

In 1809, John Davenport, who owned one hundred acres of land fronting on the main street in Somerville, had it divided off in lots and streets in the form of a village, and disposed of the whole in the form of a lottery. Every ticket costing thirty dollars was assured to draw a prize, and fortunate ones might become entitled to the house in Somerville, or to one of the lots fronting on the main street. Most of the tickets were sold in New York ; and the land itself was thrown out and become a village common, and is known as the "Lottery Field." It has in late years been appropriated principally by the colored population. It was a fine speculation in its day, but the effect of it has by no means tended to increase the prosperity of Somerville.

About 1807 the need of books being much felt, and effort was made to establish a public library in the village. Quite liberal contributions were made for that day, and a respectable number of books were purchased, a book case was procured, and they were kept in Mr. LaTourette's store. I would give a great deal for a catalogue of those books, just to see how they would contrast with books of the present day used in libraries. There was some of the best historical works, ancient and modern, Shakespear and the best of the English Poets, and the Essayists such as Johnson, Addison, Steele, &c., an aportionment of good sermons, besides other rural and religious works, books of travel, and others of a lighter kind. It was an important

acquisition to the neighborhood, and was kept for a number of years, but after the generation that had gotten it up, had passed away, it began to decline, and there being no one to take care of it, there was a kind of distribution of the books made that had been preserved, and that was the end of it.

At an early day the importance of a newspaper was felt. The Somerset Messenger was not the first paper printed in Somerville. The first one was commenced about 1814 or 1815. It was called the Intelligencer or Somerset Intelligencer. James E. Gore commenced the publication of the Messenger as a continuation of it, as early as 1822, and it is still published.

There is a history about the old Hotel. When I first recollect it, which was about 1800, it was kept by John Meldrum, and well kept. He was a jolly old soul and his family respectable, everybody liked them. The property was owned by an association of gentlemen, called the Somerset Hotel Company, consisting chiefly of the public men in the county, and some of the lawyers who attended the Courts. About 1800 Judge Van Derveer removed from Cooperstown, N. Y., and purchased a property which comprised quite a little farm, running back some distance North, beyond the brook. He some time afterwards traded the tavern house with Gilbert A. Lane of the North Branch, for his farm, afterwards owned by Arthur Schenck. Lane removed to Somerville and kept the Hotel. Meldrum's friends were unwilling to lose him and his family, and procurred for him the house that Job Van Arsdale, a blacksmith, had built, where T. A. Hartwell lived, and some additions having been made to it, he moved there and kept it until he died, some years after. Lane was not calculated to keep a public house, and the old Hotel passed from him to William Mann, who occupied it until about 1823 or 1824, when it passed into the hands of John Torbet, and since Jacob Fritts has occupied it. The County House was of a later date, and was built and owned by a company called the Hotel Company. It has had many owners in its time.

With these notes of some of "The First Things," in

our beautiful village, we dismiss the subject and hand it over for completion to those who may come after us. Our purpose is only to put on record such things as are in danger of being lost, for the information of some one who may undertake to write the history of our county as it ought to be written.

THE ACADEMY.

Any account of Somerville would be incomplete that did not embrace a notice of its Academy. In the early history of the village it was a prominent feature. The idea of erecting such a building and attempting to maintain a classical school, in which young men could be fitted for college, at such an early day was an honor to the inhabitants of the village.

It came in this wise: A number of gentlemen from Somerville and its vicinity met together to celebrate the Fourth of July, 1801. Some suitable preparations had been made to give interest to the occasion. The public exercises of the day were held in the church. Two young boys, one a son of J. R. Hardenburgh, Esq., and the other a son of Col. Peter D. Vroom, made each an oration; one upon the discovery of America, the other on the death of George Washington. These juvenile orators afterwards became conspicuous citizens of the county of Somerset. One was Cornelius L. Hardenburgh of New Brunswick; the other Peter D. Vroom, Esq., Governor of the State, and Envoy Extraordinary and Ambassador to the Kingdom of Prussia.

After the exercises in the church the gentlemen repaired to the hotel, where a dinner had been prepared. Among them were several who had sons to be educated. After a free conversation on the subject of education, it was resolved to make an effort to establish a classical school where young men might be instructed in Latin and Greek, and prepared to enter college. Immediate action was taken, and on the eighteenth of July, at another meeting, a constitution was adopted, which provided for the erection of a building and the organization of an association

aiding in its support and patronage. The preamble recites that "whereas an attempt had been made by the inhabitants of Somerville and vicinity, to raise by subscription in shares of ten dollars each, a sum sufficient to erect a suitable building for a classical school, and had succeeded so far as to warrant the commencement of such building ; that, therefore, it becomes necessary to form a constitution for the government of the said association. The first article fixes as its name "The Proprietors of the Academy of Somerville," and defines it as an institution expressly set apart for the instruction of youth in the learned languages, the English, the arts and sciences, and public speaking ;" each proprietor to be entitled to one vote for each share of ten dollars. After the usual officers for such an association had been provided for, the annual meeting was fixed for the first day of April. The instrument was signed by Peter Studdiford, John Bryan, John Frelinghuysen, Andrew Howell, Jonathan Ford Morris, Thomas Talmage, John Elmendorf, Jacob R. Hardenburgh, John Simonson, John W. Hall, Joseph Doty, Dickenson Miller, Cornelius Van Deventer, Brogun Brokaw, Edmund Elmondorf, John Brokaw, John Cox, Garret Tunison, Philip Herder, Roeluf Nevius, Peter B. Dumont and Matthew A Lane. The subscription amounted to $1,701. Besides the persons who subscribed the Constitution, there were present at this meeting John Wortman, James Van Derveer, John Meldrum, Israel Harris, Richard McDonald, John Whitenack, Joseph Annin, William McEowen, Andrew Coejeman, and Johannes Van Neste.

The officers of the association who were first elected were Peter Studdiford, President ; John Bryan, Vice President ; John Frelinghuysen, Treasurer, and Andrew Howell, Sec'y. The Board of Regents consisted of Jonathan F. Morris, John Wortman, Thomas Talmage, John . . Vredenburgh, John Elmendorf, Jacob R. Hardenburgh, Dickinson Miller, John Simonson, Garret Tunison and the President.

At an adjourned meeting on the fourteenth of December ensuing, Messrs. Studdiford, Vredenburgh, and Har-

denburgh were appointed a committee to contract for the erection of a suitable building for the contemplated school. The price of tuition in the Latin and Greek languages was fixed at four dollars per quarter, and the committee were authorized to offer fifty dollars in addition to the tuition fees, to procure a suitable teacher to open the school.

On the first of March, 1802, at a meeting of the association the accounts were referred to a committee consisting of Andrew Howell, Thomas Talmage and John Elmendorf, and an order made to have the house lathed and plastered and the wood work painted ; also to erect a suitable form and benches. The accounts were to be submitted to another meeting on the second Monday in April. This meeting was convened, officers appointed and the exercises in the school commenced almost immediately ; The teacher employed, we learn, was Lucas George, an Irishman, who proved himself to be a fine scholar and an efficient instructor. The school went into operation in May or June of 1802.

Lucas George remained at its head for some four years, and the Regents then raised the price of tuition to five dollars per quarter instead of four. In 1804 the incorporation of the association was effected under the laws of the State, and a general satisfactory progress was made in all the affairs of the school. Mr. George resigned at the close of 1804, and in March, 1805, Jacob Kirkpatrick was engaged as principal, at the rate of $182 per half year.

Then W. C. Morris, a son of Dr. J. F. Morris, taught for a time. Then on November 26th, 1808, Stephen Boyer, was engaged as Principal. He was still principal in 1810. Afterwards Isaac N. Wyckoff and Rev. John Cornell taught, and the school had flourished extensively.

It had no rival except Baskingridge, and enjoyed an extensive patronage for some time. Somerville, in that day, was a point to which many eyes were directed ; and it was a power in the State. It had in it, and around it, a number of citizens of large influence and commanding force of character.

After the days when Rev. John Cornell had charge of the school, Rev. Peter Studdiford taught in it, then Mr.

Nevil, then John Walsh, then William Thompson, then Charles Hageman, then William D. Waterman and John L. See. But ultimately other views began to be entertained by many of the citizens of the village ; other wants grew up ! Young men began to look more to business than a college diploma, and the importance of the English department over-topped the classical in public estimation. The building itself grew to be too contracted for the number of pupils desiring instruction ; and the enlarged views of education prevalent in the community pointed to another school. The following minute records the mode in which it was abolished.

Whereas, on the 16th day of April 1804 the original Constitution of said association was by the Stockholders thereof altered and amended as follows, to wit :

"If it should so happen that a sufficient sum arising from the tuition of students in the said institution, and from voluntary subscription, shall not be procurred successively so as to enable the trustees to procure a teacher of competent abilities for instruction in the dead languages, it shall in such case be the duty of the trustees for the time being, to dispose of the property belonging to the association, by way of public vendue to the highest bidder and for the best price that can be procurred for the same, and the net proceeds arising from such sale shall be divided by the number of shares subscribed. The product thence arising shall be the same each subscriber shall be entitled to receive for each and every share by him or her subscribed. And it shall also be the duty of the said trustees to give public notice in a newspaper printed at New Brunswick, in one of the newspapers printed at Trenton, and also in one of the newspaper printed in the city of New York, for the space of one month, what may be the dividend each share is entitled to receive, and requesting the proprietors to call for the same in six months from the date, or it will be considered a donation and appropriated to the founding of an English school in the neighborhood of Somerville."

And Whereas, the Trustees of said association have been unable to obtain and procure a sufficient sum from the tuition of students in the said institution, and from volun-

tary subscriptions, so as to enable them to procure a teacher of competent abilities for instruction in the dead languages, for any part or portion of the period of four full years next before this time, therefor.

Resolved, That the said property belonging to the said association be sold and the proceeds be disposed of pursuant to the power and direction contained in the said article of association.

At a meeting of the Trustees, at the office of S. S. Hartwell, December 4th, 1855, it was on motion resolved that the resolution of the board of trustees on the 5th day of September 1855, be confirmed and carried out in all things, and that the real estate of the Academy lot be disposed of at Public sale, at the house of Jacob A. Fritts, Inn keeper, in Somerville, on Tuesday, the 19th day of February next, between the hours of two and five P. M., and that the same be advertised according to law.

In conformity with these resolution, a decree in Chancery was obtained directing the sale of the property and the division of the money among the original stockholders and their heirs, and after due notice, the house and lot was sold to S. S. Hartwell.

CHAPTER XVI.

BOUND BROOK.

The earliest settlements in the county of Somerset, were made in the village of Bound Brook and its vicinity. The oldest land title, dated May 4, 1681, in this portion of the State, secured at once all the land on which the village now stands, extending from Bound Brook to Middlebrook and from the North side of the River to the Mountain. We have given in another place the names of the Indian grantors and the purchasers.

Out of this tract the proprietors took 1,170 acres, embracing the site of the village ; and after being surveyed by Phillip Wells, surveyor, September 25th, 1683, it was patented to Thomas Rudyard, an eminent lawyer of London.

The only one of the proprietors under this Indian grant who actually settled on any part of it, was Thomas Codrington. He had 877 acres apportioned to him September 25th, 1683 ; and built a house upon it soon after, and called his place Racawackhana. He also owned 1,000 acres more, lying on the rear of his farm, running up to the apex of the mountain.

Thomas Codrington was living at Racawackhana on the 26th of November 1684, and was at that date appointed one of Governor Barclay's council. He was a man of influence in his time, and received the same appointment

from Lord Neil Campbell, Oct 18th, 1686, and again from Governor Bass, May 6, 1698. The place was owned about the commencement of the present century, by Alexander Campbell.

Thomas Rudyard, who owned the land upon which the village now stands, was one of the twenty-four proprietors to whom the Duke of York confirmed March 14th, 1682, the previous sale of the Province of East New Jersey, by giving them a new grant. Under this grant Robert Barclay was appointed governor for life, September 16th, 1782, with permission not to reside in the Province, and Thomas Rudyard became his deputy. He arrived in the Province November 13th, of the same year—having with him as Surveyor General, Samuel Groome, also one of the Proprietors. He was superceded in 1685 and went to Jamaica, West Indies. He resided at Amboy and had with him two of his daughers, ladies of education and culture named Anne and Margaret. They were great prizes in such a land, and were soon "woo'd and won," by two gentlemen from New York City. Anne married John West ; Margaret became the wife of Samuel Winder, and resided on a plantation near Middletown, in Monmouth county. The Episcopal Church at Perth Amboy is even at this day enjoying the fruits of her liberality. It does not appear probable that Thomas Rudyard ever resided in Bound Brook—not even that he ever visited it.

As early as 1700, or before that, the lands of Rudyard, with 877 acres adjoining it, belonging to John Royce, were purchased by a company consisting of George Cussart, Samuel Thompson and Jacob DeGroot. Rudyard's original 1,170 acres were divided between Thompson and DeGroot equally, but the Royce land was held in company. There is no authentic record of their having sold any part of this land previous to 1720. The highway through Bound Brook was laid out by this company, and was known as the "Great Raritan Road," previous to which the travel had been on the banks of the river near the stream. The Thompson residence, built at an early day, stood on the road just where the railroad now crosses it, and was purchased by the company and demolished to form their

roadway. This property was conveyed first to Thomas Clawson, then to William Wortman, then to David Mc Kinney, then to Michael Shooley, and then March 27th, 1786, to Clarkson Freeman, M. D.

On the Royce plot, lived as early as 1720, John Anderson, whose residence was just south of the lane leading to the late Thomas Codrington residence, and on the east side—some remains of this house are still standing Then Israel Brown built a house where Peter Brown now resides. Then next Joseph Bonney lived in the present Rockafellow house. The rear part of this building is the old Bonney homestead. Then next was the residence of Garret Van Wagener, M. D., next below Bonney's on the opposite side ; and then Daniel Van Corts, where A. Cammann at present resides. These were the first houses in Bound Brook.

On the Codrington plot was the house of William Harris, who built the Middlebrook Hotel. It continued in possession of the Harris family as late as 1815, when Israel Harris, sheriff of Somerset county, was its landlord. On the same plot resided Thomas McElworth, in the house where Stephen Brown lived.

The Codrington homestead, "Racawackhana," was owned in 1700 by Aaron Lazarder ; then about 1720 by his son Moses Lazarder ; then by his son David Lazarder ; afterwards by Michael Van Tyle, Alexander Campbell and Samuel Swan, M. D.

Jacob DeGroot's land, including 1,023 acres, extended to the mountain ; and the old house, in which Jacob DeGroot, Esq., a grandson lived, and died there July 22, 1843, aged 94 years, was only recently burned to the ground.

George Cussart's house is now the Bound Brook Hotel. He sold three hundred acres to Ebenezer Trimbly, which was inherited by his son Peter, who died May 20, 1797, and left it to his two daughters, one of whom married Tunis Ten Eyck, and the other Col. John Staats.

Wm. Dockwra resided below the village on the South side of the Raritan, as early as 1703—he had purchased 900 acres of the Proprietors in 1682. The house is still

standing It was long the residence of Hendrick Fisher, and is now owned by A. J. Brokaw. Dockwra returned to London, and died in 1717. He was a Scotchman, but before becoming interested in lands in Somerset County, had been employed in merchantile pursuits. Some of the first permanent settlers in Bound Brook, besides those already named, were Hendrick Hendrickson, Hendrick Vanderbelt, Fletcher Van Nortwick, Jan Van Doren, Pieter Jansen Van Deventer, Garret Garretson, Jan Anten.

In the year 1700, the 1,171 acres of the original proprietors were purchased as we have said, by George Cussart and Jacob DeGroot. In 1720 Ebenezer Trimbly, Hendrick Harpending, Cornelius Prant, Hendrick Fisher, William Riddle and John R. Meyers had become purchasers of parts of this original tract, and subsequently, in 1746, Peter Williamson, James Hude, Esq., Anthony Blackford, Bartholemew Kelso, Charles McEvers, Thomas Irvine, Joseph Stansberry, David Cussart, Tobias Van Norden, Thomas Cooper and John De Groot occupied parts and parcels belonging to it; the particulars cannot be more minutely specified.

In the days succeeding the revolution there were three public houses of entertainment kept in Bound Brook, viz: The Middlebrook Hotel kept by Israel Harris, the Frelinghuysen House, the site of which was occupied by the house of B. B. Mathews. It swung out a great sign containing a portrait of Major-General Frederick Frelinghuysen, and was kept by Peter Harpending, son of Hendrick Harpending, a cord-wainer from Lingery, Holland; and thirdly the Washington Hotel. At this house Col. Simcoe halted on his way to Van Veghten's Bridge and Millstone

John Campbell's house built as early as 1685, on the banks of the Raritan, has long since disappeared. It was a mansion of some pretentions in its day, and served to shield an unfortunate exile from turbulent Scotia, during many a lonely year. His remote descendants are yet among the citizens of Bound Brook.

Major-General Benjamin Lincoln had his quarters at the house yet standing at the east end of the village. It was

the only house having two stories which Bound Brook could boast. It was inhabited at the time by Peter Williamson. General Lincoln himself, when giving an account of his retreat from this place uses the following language : "Being stationed at Bound Brook on the Raritan, he had an extent of five or six miles to guard, with a force of less than 500 men fit for duty. On the 13th of April, 1777, owing to the negligence of his patrol, he was surprised by a large party of the enemy under Cornwallis and Grant, who came upon him so suddenly that the General and one of his aids had barely time to get on horseback ; the other aid was taken, as were also a few pieces of artillery."

Near this house, a blockhouse or fortification had been erected commanding the crossing over Bound Brook creek, connected with an earthwork reaching to the banks of the river.

It stood on the ground occupied at present by the old shop which Mrs. Giles owns. When Gen. Lincoln retreated, the inhabitants all fled to the mountain leaving a dead soldier's corpse in the block house, as the only occupant of the village. It would be possible to detail a great variety of reminiscences of family and personal history belonging to these times, but properly they do not belong to our subject.

The first school house in Bound Brook stood a little west of the Presbyterian Church. Its site is now included in the church grounds. It was a low one story building, and used also as a meeting house by the early settlers. The first teacher was called John Wacker. His name occurs as early as 1742. When he came, and when he retired from his position, are things not known. He was succeeded by William Hedden, who resided in a small house standing on the site of the lecture room of the Presbyterian church. Hedden sold this property to Thomas Coon, who again sold it to Ambrose Cooke, M. D. The house was subsequently removed to the rear of the lot, and forms part of a carriage house. Hedden continued to act as principal of this school until 1768, when he removed to

Newark. An interesting notice of him was published in the Newark Sentinel during the last winter.

He was succeeded by Peter Walsh, a Scotchman, who continued to teach in the same building, until the erection of the building known as the "Academy." This house, like others, has been demolished and has made room for a better structure. It was a respectable building of two stories, with a small cupola; and the old bell of Kell's Hall, rang the children to their morning and afternoon exercises. It was built in the year 1800 in part from money bequeathed for that purpose by Michael Field. The object of the bequest is conveyed in the words of his will. "I give the sum of £500 lawful money of the State of New Jersey, towards a free school, that may be erected hereafter within the Presbyterian congregation of Bound Brook, which my executors are hereby required to put into the hands of the trustees of the congregation aforesaid, and the trustees are required to put the same at interest, and to keep the interest money arising therefrom in their custody and possession, until the said "Free School House" shall be built, and then apply the said interest money for that purpose, and supporting said school, and for no other uses." This was dated on October 14th, 1791, and Mr. Field died on the 13th of January, 1792, aged 97 years. Peter Walsh was the first teacher employed after the academy was built; and was succeeded by Isaac Toucy, President Buchanan's Secretary of the Navy. During the period in which Mr. Toucy was in charge a female department was in existence on the second floor, under the supervision and instruction of Miss Joannah Deeds. This venerable structure, so long a land mark in the village, was finally demolished in 1857, and succeeded by the present building.

Religious services were commenced in Bound Brook, as early as 1700, and resulted in the formation of a Presbyterian Church, which has been among the most respectable and intelligent congregations in the State, but as our province is not to write the ecclesiastical history of our county we forbear. We give however a single remeniscense. The Rev. Mr. McCrea, the father of Jane McCrea was ordain-

ed by the Presbytery of New Brunswick, August 4, 1741, served the church at Bound Brook until 1749, when he was succeeded by Rev. Israel Reed, who was installed pastor December 6th, 1749

The story of Jane McCrea, as told by Lossing, who had it from a grand-daughter of her friend Mrs. McNeil, with whom she was staying at the time of her death. is a simple tale of love and misfortune ; and her death an accident of the war of the revolution, not premeditated even by the Indians, and, resulting from the effort made by her intended husband, Capt. David Jones, of Burgoyne's army, to rescue her from the dangers by which she was surrounded. Her father was also for a time the minister of the Presbyterian Church at Lamington, and died a widower previous to the unfortunate death of Jane, his daughter ; at Paulis Hook, now Jersey City, May 10, 1769. It was the occasion of her going to Fort Edward to reside with Mrs. McNeil. Jones was a neighbor of the McNeil's, and inclined to the side of the King. When the revolution opened he joined the party of the British and obtained the position of Captain in Burgoyne's army. He was so affected by the death of Jane McCrea that he left the army, went to Canada, and never saw Fort Edward again.

Rev. Israel Read, installed pastor of the Bound Brook Presbyterian Church in 1750, sleeps quietly in the rear of the church, over which he had presided for nearly half a century, commencing his pastorate at a time when the frontier line of civilization was within bow shot of the tombstone that now marks his grave. During his ministry the wilderness around Bound Brook was changed to fruitful fields, in which thousands were added to the settlement, in which hundreds of marriage ceremonies were performed by the minister—children were baptised and the word of God planted in the hearts of many. Mr. Read was thrown from his carriage near Raritan Landing, on November 25, 1793, and fatally injured. He died three days afterwards, aged 75. His monument records that he was the first settled minister of this church, in which he was faithful to his divine master to death." He left one daughter named Mary, who subsequent to the

death of her father, became the wife of Capt. John Powers. John Powers was born in North Carolina, and commanded a company in a regiment from that State, during the revolution. He bore a distinguished part in the forlorn hope at the battle of Stony Point, July 15 and 16, 1779, for which he, in an official document, received the thanks of Gen. Wayne. He came to Bound Brook at the time of the disbandment of the army, and was soon afterwards united in marriage to Mrs. Elizabeth Bonney, who at that time was the widow of Benjamin Bonney, whose tragical death by the hand of the notorious Tory Bill Stuart, is still chronicled among the traditions of the place. She died September 10th, 1795, aged 45 years. Capt. Powers afterwards wooed and wed Mary, daughter of the Rev. Israel Read. She died May 4th, 1819, and sleeps by the side of her father.

At the time of the Revolution the inhabitants of Bound Brook were, with a few exceptions, on the Patriot side, and suffered as much, if not really more than others, from the war. The army was quartered near them twice, and during the military operations in Somerset County in 1776, they were for a time almost directly between the two armies, and exposed in every possible way to annoyance from both

Perhaps one of the most interesting incidents illustrating what we have said, may be told in the following words: While a party of Washington's army was stationed at Pluckamin, a company of British cavalry made a raid from New Brunswick through Bound Brook, accompanied by a number of 'Tories,' among them the noted Bill Stewart. On reaching the house of Benjamin Bonney, he took his little son Peres, then about four years of age and secreted himself in the cellar of his house. Stewart prowling round the house saw him sitting on the steps of the cellar and fired upon him while the child was on his lap. The ball took effect in his left groin, just missing the child. Bonney died of this wound after the third day. This catastrophe occurred in what is now the Rockafellow house, and the room to which he was taken and in which he died, exists still in the rear of the building. From Bonney's resi-

dence they went to DeGroats, broke open the cellar, consumed all the provisions, threatened and attempted to strike DeGroat with a sword which his wife turned aside by seizing it, but cut her hand badly. They then obliged him, by threatening his life, to swear allegiance to the King, and also committed violence upon Archibald Van Norden. On their return however, they were met below Bound Brook by Col. John Staats, attacked so fiercely that they lost all their plunder and their prisoners escaped. Mischief had been done, life sacrificed and property destroyed; but any benefit to either of the contending parties it is difficult to indicate.

During the 'troublesome times' the sabbath worshipers in Bound Brook often came to church on Sunday armed, and their muskets could be seen at the end of their pews or perhaps some leaned upon them when in the act of prayer. They had faith in God, but like Cromwell, believed in keeping their powder dry, and in the safety of a good musket held firmly in hand as a defense from enemies.

On the Sabbath day two services were attended before the people were dismissed. During the intermission of half an hour an old colored woman remembered as "Old Susanna," stood ready by the side of the church to refresh customers with ginger cake and spruce beer The young gentlemen and their sweethearts were her best customers, and to spend sixpence in 'treating the girls' was considered an act of noble generosity, if not really a little extravagant. How things do change.

The prosperity of Bound Brook dates from 1830 when the Delaware and Raritan Canal was begun. Previons to this time it was as ragged a little town as one would wish to see. What the canal began, the railroad completed, and Bound Brook is now one of the most prosperous villages in the State.

We append a note endeavoring to offer a meaning to the four Indian names associated with Bound Brook.

1. SACUNK seems to be a compound of *cisqua*, muddy and *conk* or *tonk* or *tunk*, a stream, a slow sluggish stream,

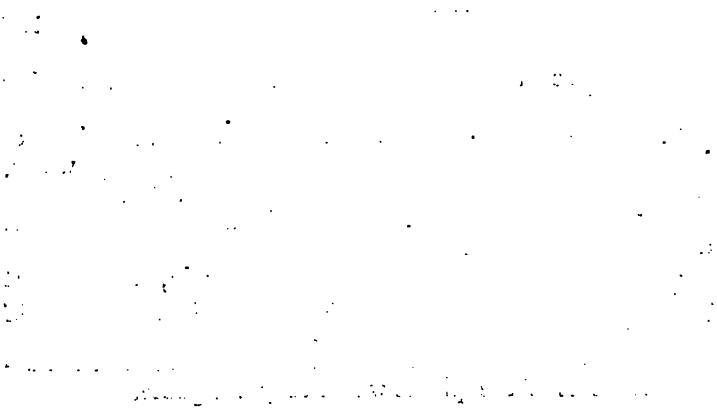
and so means the stream of mud, or stream flowing through the mud.

2. RACA-HOVA-WALLABY. *Raca* is a loomy piece of land, *hogua* bent like a fish hook, *wallaby*, deep water, i. e., The round plain by the deep crooked water.

3. RHA-WEIGH-WEIROS. *Ragaweighweros* running from a deep hole or gorge.

4. RACA-WACK-HANNA, *Raca* loomy again, *waqua*, flat or low, *hanna* rivulet or brook, a loomy flat by a running brook or by a rapid noisy rivulet.

And so we see all these words are expressive of the natural features of the places which they designate.



CHAPTER XVII.

In the brief space which is left me, a few words can only be said of

BASKINGRIDGE.

It was settled by imigrants from Scotland and the north of Ireland, probably as early as 1730. Alexander Kirkpatrick came to Mine Brook and built a log house in 1736. In his memoir no mention is made of any families in that vicinity. He travelled on foot from Bound Brook over the mountains and through the woods, reaching at last a spring of water on the South side of Round Mountain, he admired the out look and determined to settle there. The title to his land was not secured until Nov. 24, 1747. At a later date, 1762, Lord Sterling (Wm. Alexander) commenced to build a mansion on his property, which was long known as Sterling's buildings. Between these dates the lands seem to have been taken up and settlers located. The first names include the Southards, Linn, Barkely, McEown, Guerin, McMartin, Ayres, Johnson, Whitecar, Conklin, Cross, Mehelm, Dayton, Annin, Lewis, Gaston, and others. A Presbyterian Church was organized, and was served by Rev's. Cross, Kennady, Finley, Brownlee, &c. Its most prominent feature was the Academy, commenced by Finley, and continued by Brownlee, in which many young men

afterwards eminent in the learned professions, received their early training. The region has always been distinguished by the intelligence and the decided christian character of its inhabitants.

LAMINGTON

Had a Church organized as early as 1740. Its early settlers were of the same nationality of those at Baskingridge; Henry, Logan, Suydam, McKinstry, Kennady, Dunham, McDowell, Sloan, Boylen, Todd, McBride, Field, Blair, Blackwell, Vandervoort, and others, are names which are to be found engraven on the monuments in the grave yard beside the church. Rev. James McCrea, Jeremiah Halsey, William Boyd, Horace Galpin and Wm. Blauvelt have served this church. Boyd, like Finley, devoted himself to teaching the classics, and prepared a number of young men for college, who were eminently useful in their day in church and state. We may mention John and Wm. Mc Dowel, J. T. Field, Sloan, J. C. Vandervoort, and Brown as among his students; then subsequently S. C. Henry, Oliver Ogden, Abm. Hageman, who served in the christian ministry and did honor to their native place.

Somerset County has from its first days been distinguished for its religious character, its pure morals, its industry and thrift, and its general prosperity. It embraces a population which in wealth, intelligence, virtue, respect for law, and general culture is not excelled by any other community in our State. Fewer great crimes have been committed, fewer public executions have taken place, fewer great scandals have occurred. Its public men have been eminent, filled places of honor which are a source of pride to all right thinking men. Occupying a central place, it has been denominated the garden of New Jersey, it is certainly not behind the foremost or the best. Its churches, schools, roads, and public improvements are abreast of the times, if not actually in advance. Hence its verdant plains are being sought as a residence by many from the overflowing cities on its borders. Its climate is mild and healthy, not subject to contamination from malarial influences. In a word it offers as many advantages and enjoy-

ments to those who are seeking homes as can be found in any portion of our proud old State.

The Rail Road facilities of the County are abundant. We cannot say that every man has them at his door, but he at least has them within an easy distance. Hence property has advanced in every part of it, and capitalists who have invested their funds have not had occasion to regret their action. Its future is bright and encouraging. It will not be long before many of its choice locations will be occupied by mansions, and improvements which will at once gratify and enrich its prosperous inhabitants. Indeed, when all its advantages are properly estimated, it presents attractions to the public which few can offer to an equal extent. All honor to our goodly land—may its future be equal to the highest wishes of those who love it best.

Its past memories are a proud inheritance, and we fondly hope its future may not develope anything to mar or depreciate them ; and when another Centennial has arrived, may those who celebrate it feel as much pride in their antecedents as we really feel now in ours. Let them emulate our example, and they will not fail to enjoy the animating distinction, which has been so unanimously conceded to us, their antecedents.

Industry never looses its reward. Public virtue is a public blessing. Temperance and good morals are essential elements in the prosperity and happiness of every community. Political integrity is as important as the equal administration of justice. As long as these virtues are cultivated by a people and demanded from those trusted with influence and called to offices of profit and honor, we may hope to see our good county advancing and prospering as she has until now done. The school, the church and the law, can operate in perfect harmony, and be made to combine in maintaining correct principles and public integrity ; and all those who have intelligent conceptions of their own best interests, will unite in upholding them and extending these influences in their separate fields of operation.

Somerville June 17, 1878.

APPENDIX.

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When the spirit of resistance to British oppression had formed itself into a resolution to contend, preparations were made to organize, and to call out the military of the country. The first public act looking to a "plan for regulating the militia of the colony," was passed in the Provincial Congress, at Trenton, June 3d, 1775. Under this act two Regiments were raised in Somerset Co.; August 16, 1775, five companies from Somerset were added to the former enrollment.

When the first Batallion was formed, William Alexander (Lord Sterling) was made Colonel, Stephen Hunt, Capt, Col.; Frederick Frelinghuysen, Capt. Col.; Abraham Ten Eyck, Lieut. Col.; Derrick Middah, 2d Maj. Lieut. Col; James Linn. Capt. 1st Maj.; Rich. McDonald, Capt. 2d Maj.; Thomas Hill, Capt. 2d Maj.

Of the 2d Batallion, Abraham Quick was made Col.; Hendrick Van Dyke, Col.; Benj. Barrd, 1st Maj.; Peter D. Vroom, Capt. 1st Maj. Lieut. Col.; William Verbryck, Capt. 2d Maj.; William Baird, Capt. 1st Maj.; Enos Kelsey, 2d Maj. For a complete list of all the officers and men who served in the Revolutionary War, we can only refer our readers to Adj. Gen. Stryker's official Register, published in Trenton, in 1872.

The following Resolutions of a meeting in Hillsborough Township, show the form in which action was taken in enrolling the Militia in Somerset County. They are interesting as being the only memoranda referring to this early period in the action of the people in defense of their liberties. The original was found accidentally among some old papers on a book stand in New York.

At a meeting of the principal Freeholders, and Officers of Militia, of the Township of Hillsborough, County of Somerset and Province of New Jersey, held this 3d of May, 1775, at the house of Garret Garrison, it was agreed as follows, viz:

1st. That the Companies of Militia this day assembled here, do choose officers for their respective Companies.

2d. That the officers so devised, shall choose officers for a Company of Minute Men, who are to beat up for volunteers to raise said Company to consist of 60 men, who who are to be exercised twice per week, and to be ready at a minutes warning to march in defence of the liberty of our country.

3d. That the men so voluntarily enlisting in said Company, shall receive one shilling and six pence for every part of a day they are em-

ployed in being exercised by any of their officers, and the officers in proportion.

4th that in case said Company shall march in defense of their country, the Captain to receive six shillings, the 1st Lieut. five shillings, the 2d Lieut. four shillings, and each of the inferior officers, three shillings, all Proc. per day ; with provisions and ammunition, and to those who are able, Arms ; and all the above money to be raised by tax on the inhabitants of said Township, in the same manner the Provincial Taxes are raised.

5th. In pursuance of the first article of the above agreement, the Companies here assembled choose the following gentlemen their officers, viz :

FOR THE HILLSBOROUGH COMPANY.—John Ten Eyck, Capt. ; Peter D. Vroom, Lieut. ; Jacobus Quick, 2d Lieut.

FOR THE MILLSTONE COMPANY. - Hendrick Probasco, Capt. ; John Smock, 1st Lieut.; Casparus Van Nostrand, 2d Lieut.

FOR THE SHANNICK COMPANY.—William Ver Bryck, Capt.; Roelif Peterson, 1st Lieut.; Cornelius Peterson, 2d Lieut.

FOR THE COMPANY OF GRENADIERS.—Cornelius Lott, Capt.; John Bennet, Lieut.; Cornelius Van Derver, 2d Lieut.; Garret Garrison, 3d Lieut.

6th. The above officers proceeded according to the authority given them in the second article, to the choice of officers for the Company of Minute Men, when the following men were unanimously chosen: For Capt., Cornelius Lott ; for 1st Lieut., John Nevius ; for 2d Lieut., Garret R. Garrison.

7th. The officers of the Militia, and the Committee of Observation are desired to meet together and appoint a Committee to provide the above Company with Arms and Ammunition.

May 16, 1775. The Officers of the Militia, and the Committee of Observation having met, unanimously chose Hendrick Van Middlesworth, Conrad Ten Eyck and Dirck Low, to provide ammunition for said Company, and arms for those that are not able to buy for themselves, and the aforesaid gentlemen are desired to take £40 Proc., in money on the credit of the Township, to buy 140 pounds powder, 420 pounds lead, and 210 flints ; and if the said Company should be called to march in defense of their country, if not provided for, then the aforesaid Hendrick Van Middlesworth, Conrad Ten Eyck and Dirck Low, are to find provisions on the credit of the township as above said.

It is further agreed that the above agreement shall be subject to such alterations, and additions as the Provincial Congress shall think proper.

By order of the Assembly,

JOHN BAPTIST DUMONT, Chairman,
PETER D. VROOM, Clerk.

We give a list of the members of Capt. P. D. Vroom's Company, enrolled after the above action ; it is evidently not complete, but it contains all now recoverable :

Jacobus Amerman, Albert Amerman, John Amerman, Thomas Auten, John Brekaw, Lieut, Capt. Vroom's Co. killed at Germantown, Oct. 4th 1777 ; Abraham Brokaw, Peter Brokaw, Corp'l ; George Brokaw, Jacobus Bergen, Corp'l ; Jacob Cook, Jacob W. Cook, Jacobus Corshow, Bergun Coevert, Fifer ; Thomas Coevert, Corp'l ; Peter Ditmas, Nicholas Dubois, Peter J. Dumont, Thomas Dwere, Jacobus Dubois, Minne Dubois, Serg't ; William Griggs, Augustus Hartshough, Harmon A. Hoag-

land. Lucas Hoagland, Peter Hoagland, Dirck Huff, Abram Low, Peter Leyster, Hugh McAllum, Hendrick Post, Serg't; Peter Perlee, Thomas Skillman, Joakim Quick, Ensign; Peter Quick, Serg't; Abram Stryker, Jonathan Spader, Albert Stothoff, Benjamin Taylor, Serg't; Willet Taylor, Abram Taylor, Abraham Van Arsdalen, Serg't; John Van Arsdale, Garret Van Arsdale, John Van Dyck, William Van Dyck, Andrew Van Middlesworth, Serg't; Tunis Van Middlesworth, Jacobus Van Nuyse, Coert Van Waggoner, Jacobus Voorhees, Rynier Veghte, Lieut 2d Batallion, Capt. ditto; Peter Voorhees, Peter Vroom, Jacob Winter Corp'l; Peter Winter; Coert Van Voorhees.

We give the following enrollment subscribed by the men who enlisted in Capt. Jacob Ten Eyck's Company of Somerset Militia.

We the subscribers do voluntarily enlist ourselves in the Company of Capt. Jacob Ten Eyck, in the Township of Bridgewater, in the County of Somerset, under the command of Col. Stephen Hunt, and do promise to obey our officers in such services as they shall appoint us, agreeable to the wishes and orders of the Provincial Congress. Witness our hands this 23d day of June 1785:

Capt., Jacob Ten Eyck, 1st Lieut., Abm. Dumont, 2d Lieut., John Brokaw, Ensign, Isaac Vanarsdalen; Sergeants, Derick Dumont, Wm. Van Dine, Philip Falk, Jacob Ten Eyck, Jr., Andreas Ten Eyck, Jacobus Voorhees; Corporals, Daniel Ammerman, John Dow, Jr., George Auten, Abram Van Voorhees; Drummer, Fred. K. Ditmars; Privates, Peter Low, Aaron Craig, Andrew Ten Eyck Tartus, John Tunison, Jacob Ten Eyck Tartus, Morines Miller, John Evens, John Dowty Jr., Henry Brokman, Nickolas Brokman, Thomas Umphrey, Godfrey Clear, Peter Post, William Wilson, John Beekman, John Downe, Cornelius Suydam, Peter Bodine, Fulkert Dow, David Helebrant, John Stuart, Jas. Winterstein, David Vanarsdalen, Chrs. McMans, Peter Teeple, Minard Johnson. Peter Sutphen, Jeremiah Doty, Christian Frazer, George Van Neste, Hugh Clark, Jacobus Van Voorhees, John Storm, John Myers, Amos Smalley, Cor. Van Dike, John Wortman, John Ross, Luke Teeple, Peter Ten Eyck, Peter Dumont, Abm. Britton, Hendrick Suydam, Jeremiah Britton, Samuel Williamson, James Ross, Gilbert Lane, Barnard Risden, Nis C., Hendrick Teeple, Jacob Snedoker, James Duyckinck, William Milliken, Evert Brokaw, Samuel Brittain, Lucas Vosseller, Jacob Vosseller, Lewis Heartsont, Ambrois Applebee, Roland Chambers, Richard Brokaw, Edward Montanye, Dirck Dowe, Peter Van Derbarge, John Powelson. Abraham Britton.

COMMITTEE CHAMBER, BRIDEGWATER, Feb. 24th 1776.

Whereas, by the ordnances lately made by the Provincial Congress, for regulating the Militia of New Jersey, it appears necessary that each Captain should have a District for the Company he commands, we the Committee, accordingly grant unto Capt. Jacob Ten Eyck, the command of all the men within the following boundaries or District: Beginning at the line of Hunterdon Co., on the river Allamatunck, thence down said river and also down the North Branch to the mouth of Chamber's Brook, then up the said brook to the place where William McDonal's Mill formerly stood, then to the top of the mountain to Capt. Stille's line, then on a direct line down between Philip Van Narsdalen, and Chris. Van Narsdalen's, westerly of Wm. Black Halls, to the rear of Raritan River Lots, then along the rear of said River Lots to a line of William Lane's River lot, then northerly and westerly, then down said branch to the line which divides the lands of Borgen Brokaw, and Mr. Conovers, then along said line to Hunterdon Co., line, then along the same to the beginning.

By order of the Committee.

ED. BUNN, Chairman.

Boundaries of the Millstone Company.—At a meeting of the Committee of the Township of Hillsborough held at the house of Garret Garretson, the 3d day of July, 1775, it was unanimously agreed that the boundaries of the Company called Millstone Company, are as follows, viz: Beginning at the mouth of Millstone River, thence along the said river to the house of Geretie Cornetry, then along her westward bound to and still continuing westwardly to the house of Court Van Vorehase, then westwardly to a small brook, and thence down the said brook to the Amwell Road, then westwardly along the said road till it comes to the 2 rod road that leads to Millstone road, continuing along said road, thence along Millstone Road to Raritan Bridge, thence along the Raritan River to the place of beginning.

PETER D. VROOM.

A list of the men who served under Capt. Jacob Ten Eyck in the Revolutionary War, from the year 1775 to the year 1781, at different times:

Arasmith Edmon, Andrews John. Andrews Malcolm, Abaylon Aaron, Auten Thomas, Andrews Robert. Auten John, Appleman David, Bertton Jeremiah, Brokaw Richard, Bertton Samuel. Bertron David, Brokaw Dirk, Brokaw Bergen, Bum Hendrick, Bulmer Garret. Bodine Cornelius, Brucanan Adam. Bogert Gisbert, Baskfort Peter, Bergen Geradis. Burom John, Bunn Edward, Bodine John, Brower William, Bodine Abraham Boss Cornelius, Brown Abraham, Buss Cornelius, Bushfield Thomas. Bumer Lewis, Bunn Henry, Bumer Benjamin, Brown Green. Bumer George, Buckobus Frederick, Brown John, Booran Henry, Bomer Richard, Bucklew Fred'k, Bulmer Robert, Brewer George, Brewer William. Bruyen James, Colter John, Campbell Archibald, Chandler John, Cumpton Richard, Comes Richard, Comes Charles, Cragy John, Casborn Christopher, Cornelison John, Colter Alexander, Cornelison William, Clawson Benjamin. Clawson Barnet, Cornelison Garret, Colter Peter, Chivus William, Castner John, Chambers William, Conine David, Coole Peter, Clawson Brant, Calwell John, Chambus Joseph, Colter Michael, Chapman John, Doty Jeremiah, Duyckins James, Herrod John, Hoagland Samuel, Henry John, Hall George. Hoge James, Huff John, Herpending Peter, Hall Isaac, Hay William, Harris Benjamin, Hall William, Hall Nicols, Hegamen James, Hoagland William, Hoagland Derrick, Hadenbrook Peter, Hall Thomas, Hadenbrook Isaac, Harris James, Harriot John, Harris John, Johnson Minard, Johnson William, Johnson, James, Jerolman Jacobus, Jones Benjamin, Kelley David, King David, King Thomas, Kirkpatrick Andrew, Lane Tunis, Dumont John, Dumont Elbert, Dow Fulkert. Dennis Rubin, Dacker Peter, Dailey William, Doughty Skillman, Drene Thomas. Drake Dirk, Defraste Isaac. Duyckman John, Duyckman William, Davis Garret. Davis John, Ewins John. Elvery John, Fraser Christopher, Fusler Luke. Fulds Jeremiah, Fulker Peter, Fusler Jacob, Fulkerson Henry, French William, Goldtrap Jonn, Gorden John, Garretson Jeremiah, Gilmer Timthey, Helebrant David, Hartson Lewis, Harris Garret, Hertough Lewis, Lucas John, Long William, Long John, Lane Thomas, Liddle Robert. Lee Thomas, Lane John, Lane Jacob, Lettis James, More John. Mapes Henry, Minor Samuel, Mulner Joseph, Montinmore William, McMurtry Thomas, McKinsley Samuel, Maggell Robert, Mishet Peter, More Luke, McDowell Ephraim, Maligh John, Millin James, Mechlenrath Thomas, Mulbrin John, Mawfut Samuel, Maybeck John, Murfey Thomas, Messler Cornelious, Mannin Isaac, McDonald Samuel, Mealigh Peter, Millin John, McMans William, McCrain Daniel. McCarty Hugh, McDowel John, Meabeach John, Nortwick John, Nevius Christopher, Nevus John, Off Christopher, Oliver Nicolas, Prine John, Powelson Henry, Post Peter, Prawl Isaac, Packson William, Probasco Garret, Porter William, Powl Archibald, Powel James, Peach William. Powelson Mina, Probasco Christopher, Ross John, Ross James, Richson Joseph, Rolan John, Runyon Richard, Rosebome Hendrick. Rosebome Robert, Rightmer James, Rickey Israel, Reimer Benjamin. Runyon Vincent, Rolan Peter, Sickel Zachariah, Stryker Barrant, Stryker Christopher, Stuard John. Suydam Cornelius, Suydam Ryke, Storm John, Smalley Amos, Staats John, Smock Banant Suydam Charles, Stephens Joseph, Sebring Fulkert, Stull Joseph, Slingerlan Henry, Scuyler Barrant. Sparks John, Stul John, Sebron George, Stephens Henry, Suddard Richard. Smalley Jonas, Stuart James, Soms Andrew, Sharp John, Sharp Matthias, Simason John, Sebrin Abraham, Sparks Gabriel, Stephens Joseph, Schenk Abraham, Sutphen Gisbert, Smith John, Smalley Isaac, Stillwell John, Ten Eyck Peter, Tunison John, Teeple Luke, Teeple Luke, Teeple Hendricks, Thompson Thomas, Teeple George, Todd George, Umphrey Thomas, Van Narsdalen Dow, Van Nest George, Van Dike Cornelius, Van Deberge Peter, Van Narsdalen Christopher, Van Debrook Peter, Van Nest Peter, Van Narsdalen John. Van Horn James, Van Narsdalen Derick, Van Narsdalen Hendrick, Vossler Peter, Valentine Jacob, Van Natten John, Van Cort John, Van Nest Barnard, Van Camp John, Van Nest Abraham, Van Doren Christopher, Van Vest Jaromas, Van Narstrand Jacob, Van Nest Frederick, Van Nest Cornelious, Van Deventer Abraham, Van Vingle Isaac, Van Tingle Abraham, Van Deventer Peter, Van Tingle John, Van Wagener Coonrad, Van Narsdalen Philip, Voorhees Fulkert, Van Doren Isaac, Van Peit Ruliff, Van Cort Michael, Van Deveer Matthew, Nan Norden Tobiah, Van Doren Bergen, Vroom Hendrick, Vroom George, Vroom John, Voorhees Isaac, Van Houten John, Van Nortwick John, Wortman John, Wilson William, Winterstein James, Williamson Samuel, Wyckoff John, Wite Matthew, Williamson Cornelius, Walker Thomas, Waldron William, Whealer James, Wooderd Daniel, Wortman Andrew, Winans William, Worley Peter, Wilson John, Waldron Cornelius, Wortman Peter, Young George, Young John.

Members of Capt. Conrad Ten Eyck's Company:

David Ammerman, Powel Ammerman, Benjamin Arrosmith, John Bennet 2d Lieut., Daniel Blew, Hendrick Blew, John Board, George Brewer, Abraham Brokaw, Corsparus Brokaw, Adam Ballas, Jacob Coach, Henry Cook, Abraham Coshaw, Thomas Covert, Tunis Covert, Samuel Davis, John DeCamp, John Decker, Hendrick Dumon, Peter Dumon, Mancias Duboys, Serg't; Abraham Dumott, Benjamin Dumott, Lawrence Dumott, Henry Fisher, Joseph French, Fulkert Fulkerson, Christian Herder, Hermanus Hoagland, Johannes Hoagland, John Hoagland, Tunis Hoagland, Nicholas Huff, Richard Huff, Henry Kennedy, Thomas Lawkerman, Thomas Light, John Lorey, Jr., Abraham Lott, Abraham Low, Daniel McEwen, Simon Van Nortwick, Thomas Peterson, Abraham Post, Peter Peryn (Perrine), John Powelson, Leroy Ralph, Hendrick Rosebroom, John H. Schenck, Serg't, Roelif Sebring, Thomas Skillman, Isaac Stryker, John Stryker, Andries Ten Eyck, Garret Terhune, Cornelius Van Arsdalen, Isaac Van Cleefe, Corporal, Paryas Van Cleef, Abram Van Arsdalen, Corporal, Jacob Vanderbilt, Chrystoyan Van Dorn, John Van Dorn, Cornelius Van Dorn, Abraham Van Dorn, Ensign, Cornelius Van Dorn, John Vandike, John Van Houten, John Van Middlesworth, Thomas Van Middlesworth, Hendrick Van Nortwick, John Van Nortwick, Ensign, Jacob Van Nuys, John Van Voorhees, Conrad Ten Eyck, Ensign, Conrad Van Wagoner, Abraham Voorhees, Corp'l, Jacob Voorhees, Peter Voorhees, John Van Arsdalen, Serg't, Adolphus Weavour, William Whilson, Jacob Winter, Barent Dumott.

—:o:—

Minutes of the First Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Township of Bridgewater, after it had been formed.

THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, 1750.

At a meeting held this 12th day of March, 1750, att the House of George Middagh, by the Inhabitants aforesaid, for chusing officers according to the Patent Granted as aforesaid, and according to an act of Assembly provided for that purpose, &c., Viz:

John Broughton—Clark.

Daniel Blackford—Constable.

Richard Compton, Henry Stevens and John Vroom—Freeholders

Thomas Authen, Jr., Lucas Tipple, John Harris, Lucas Belyou—Commissioners, of which two is to be choesing by ye Court.

Francis Cossart—Assessor for the Township.

Tobias Van Norden—Collector for aforesaid.

Hendrick Van Stay and Abraham Bodine, Isaac's son—Assessors for the Poor.

Overseers of ye Highway, for ye year 1751.

For Overseers of the Highway,

Harper Hoes—In the room of Frederick Bodine.

Edward Hall—In the room of Richard Hall.

Samuel Stats Coejamin—In the room of Jeremiah Van Nest.

James Willson—In the room of Andris Cossine.

Andris Ten Eyck, Jr.—In the room of Wm M. Kinney.

Rynear Van Nest—In the room of Jerry Reemer.

Powel Authen—In the room of John Nealor.

Denice Tunison—In the room of Folkert Sebring.

John Sebring—In the room of Joseph Colter.

The aforesaid meeting of the Inhabitants is adjourned till on the second Tuesday of March next at the hour of ten a Clock in the morning, according to an act of Assembly provided for that purpose, att the time and place aforesaid, &c.

JOHN BROUGHTON,
Clark.

—:o:—

COMMOM PLEAS JUDGES.

1778, '79, Peter Schenck, 1778, '79, 80, Jacob Bergen, 1778, '79, Abraham Van Neste, 1779, '80, 81, Nathaniel Ayers, 1779, Elisha Ayers, 1780, '81, 82, 83, Wm. Verbryck, 1781, Roeliff Sebring, 1782, '83, '84, '85, '86, '87, '88, '89, '90, '91, Thomas Berry, 1782, 83, '84, '87, '89, Robert Stockton. '1783, '84, '85, '87, '88, '90, '91, Moses Scott, 1785, '86, 'Matthias Baker, 1788, '89, '90, '91, '92, '95, '96, '97, '98, '99, 1800, Nicholas Dubois, 1788, '89, '90, '99, 1800, Peter D Vroom, 1788, '89, '90, '91, '92, '93, '94, Joseph Annin, 1789, '91, 92, Robert Gaston, 1791, '92, '93, '94, '95, '97, '98, '99, Archibald Mercer, 1792, '94, '96, '97, Robert Blair, 1792, '93, '95, '96, John Beatty, 1793, '95, '96, Robert Stockton, 1795, "96, '97, '98, 1800, '01, '02, '03, '04, '05, '06, '07, '08, '09, David Kelly, 1795, '96, '97, John Stryker, 1795, '96, '97, '98, '99, Peter Dumont, 1797 to 1806, John Bayard, 1798 to 1804, John Bryant, 1801 to 1805, Jacob R. Hardenbergh.

SHERIFFS.

1777, '78, '79, Peter Dumont, 1780, Peter T. Schenck, 1781, '82, '83, Peter D. Vroom 1784, '85, Robert Stockton, 1786, '87, John Hardenbergh, 1788, '89, '90, William Wallace, 1791, '92, '93, John Hardenbergh, 1794, '95, '96, Joseph Annin, 1797, '98, Robert Blair, 1799, 1800, Joseph Doty.

Somerset County--Its Physical Aspect.

It contains about 189,800 acres, and 297 square miles, and is divided into nine Townships, viz : Bridgewater, Bedminster Bernards, Warren, North Plainfield, Franklin, Hillsborough, Montgomery, and Branchburgh. Its central Latitude is 40 deg. 34 min, Longitude 2 deg. 15 min. The climate is mild and most healthful. The whole County rests on and is composed of the secondary or transition formation, of the old red sand stone, or red shale. The northern part is hilly or mountainous, the central undulating, and a part of the southern is of the same character. Its mountains are of Trap formation rising from 150 to 300 feet, but they nowhere exhibit any of the columnar form which the Basalt or Trap sometimes assumes. North of Somerville there is a double range of Trap Mountains. The first mountain begins near Pluckamin, lying in the form of a horse shoe, and extending to Paterson. The second commences at Bernardsville, and terminates at the little falls of the Passaic Between them there is an elevated valley from a mile to half a mile in width, in which, at different places, grey flag and building stone is obtained. These two ranges are almost unbroken, and have had the effect of changing the course of all the small rivers which flowed off the primative granite and gneiss hills north of them, and forcing them all to the north east, unil they reach Paterson Falls, over which the Passaic precipitates itself on its way to the Sea. Dead River evidently at first flowed into the Raritan at Bound Brook.

All these Trap Hills were unquestionably protruded from below by volcanic force in a semi-fluid state. In many places portions of the trap includes broken pieces of red shale, hardened by the effect of heat until almost vitrified. The Neshanic Mountain, on its northern extremity, shows the effect of intense heat, and the loose shale is burnt to such an extent that it rings like clink stone or cast iron. It is, in many respects, a curious formation, coming almost to a point on its northern end, and spreading out like a triangle to the south, broken in some places and furrowed by the action of water.

In the little valley at Chimney Rock, the place where the Trap was protruded is marked by the falls of the east branch of Middlebrook creek, and the overlaping of the red shale is plainly marked for more than a hundred yards.

There is also another lower range north of Princeton, known as Rocky Hill, through which the Millstone has found an outlet, where the same thing, though not so well defined, may be seen. If it were not for the conchoidal fracture of the Trap, it would be a most useful and excellent building material ; being less dense than granite and gneiss, its temperature is higher, and consequently a house built of it would condense less moisture and be dryer and much more healthy

The Red Shale of our County is composed of silicious and angilacious substances, and its color is owing to the presence of the red oxide of iron in small quantities. It has sometimes been ground fine and used as paint, but it is not valuable as a pigment.

As it lies in the central parts of our county, it has a general dip or inclination of about fifteen degrees to the north west, and everywhere exhibits the effect of disturbances ; being broken up and uneven on its surface.

At some remote period it has evidently been denuded of the superabundent material which originally rested on it. The Sand Hill west of Somerville, that at the Compton burying ground on the north, the hill west of the North Branch at Milltown, and the one north west from the North Branch Church, are instances of the character of the material which originally rested on it and has been removed in some way, not now recognizable.

It has resting on it clayey loom, forming the soil of the endulating grounds which rises above the alluvial along the water courses. It varies in thickness from a foot to twenty or thirty feet, and is capable of being made exceedingly fertile and valuable for agricultural purposes.

In the valley of the Peapack, there are extensive beds of limestone, which are used extensively in enriching the soil, as well as for mechanical purposes. Copper ore exists in the mountains north of Somerville, but has not been obtained in quantity to make it valuable.

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